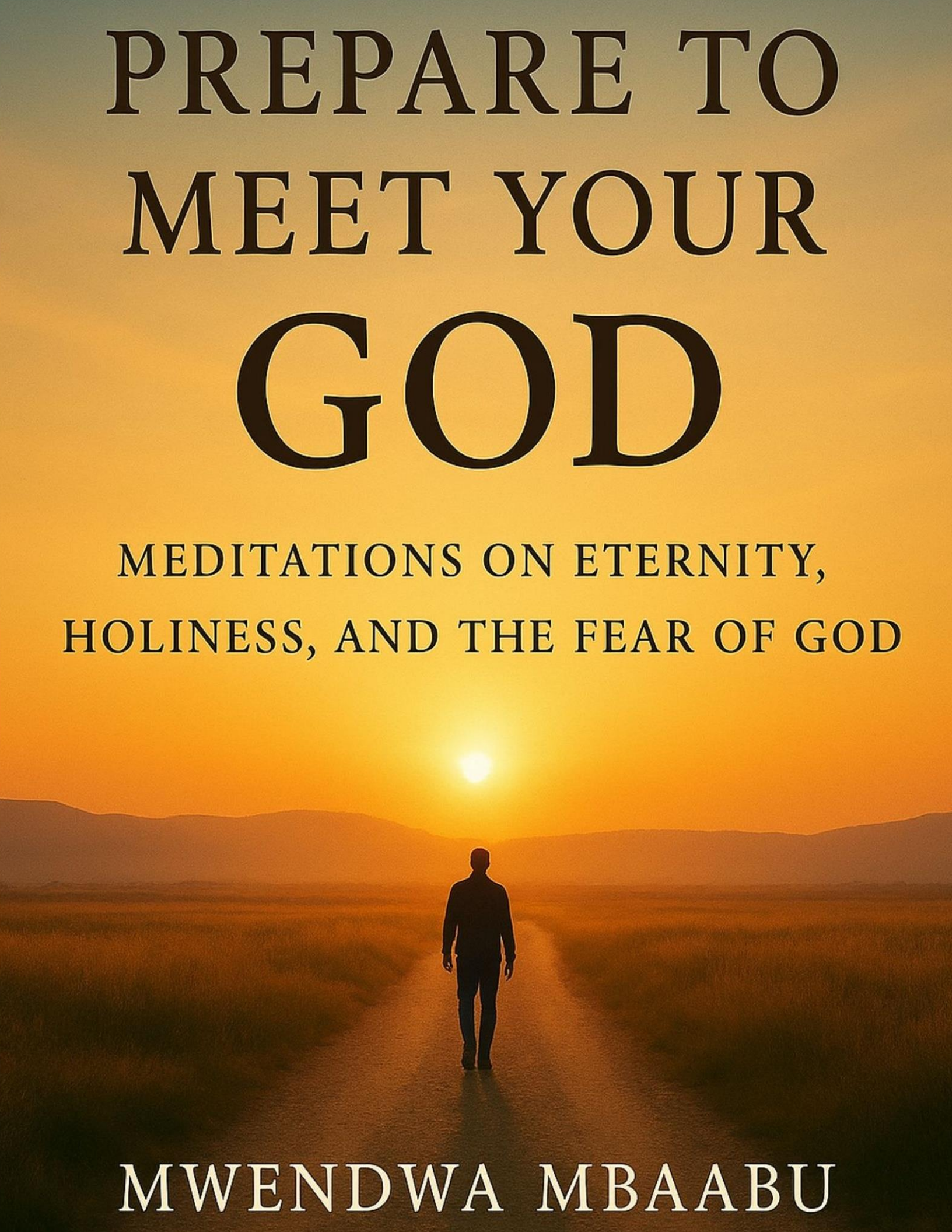
PREPARE TO MEET YOUR GOD

MEDITATIONS ON ETERNITY, HOLINESS, AND THE FEAR OF GOD



MWENDWA MBAABU

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Meditations on Eternity, Holiness, and the Fear of God

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Mwendwa Mbaabu

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to every person who reads this book. May heaven be yours at last! And I pray to meet you there where God shall make all things new! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:4-5

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Introduction

In *2023*, after being a backslidden Christian for almost 10 years and having delved into New Age spirituality deception and a life of great sin and misery, the Lord Jesus mercifully saved my soul from eternal perdition.

The Lord Jesus used the reality of hell to open my eyes to the great deception and delusion I was under and where I was headed and led me through deep repentance and restoration.

Since then, the Lord has supernaturally, by his mercy and grace, placed a great awareness of the reality of heaven and hell in my soul. He has given me a great burden to warn both the unbelievers and believers of the danger and reality of hell.

Jesus has given me a burden to awaken the bride of Christ from the slumber of lukewarmness, worldliness, and compromise, which is sadly leading many professing Christians to hell. It is a matter of great concern to the Lord.

This book is a compilation of messages the Holy Spirit has given me and ministered in my heart since 2023. I pray they will be a source of awakening to all who read this book to the reality of heaven and hell and the need for preparedness and readiness to meet God.

This is not a soft book, but it is filled with the blunt truths of scripture. The word of God is called a sharp two-edged sword in *Hebrews 4:12* and a hammer in *Jeremiah 23:29*. God does not always speak soothing words; he also warns us because he loves us. I pray you will hear what the Spirit speaks to you through these meditational messages.

The meditations in this book, charged with lots of scripture, will challenge the heavenly minded pilgrim who desires to spend eternity with God to ponder and reflect on his life and his relationship with Jesus Christ and ensure he is on the right path.

Prepare to Meet Your God is a sobering, no-fluff book with the desired outcome of inspiring souls to live daily in light of eternity, in holiness and the fear of God.

Each meditation is short, potent, and designed to be read daily as a devotion to allow for reflective meditation. Once you finish the book, start it over again and reflect on the messages once more.

"Prepare to meet your God." Amos 4:12

1. Prepare to Meet Your God

"Therefore, thus will I do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!" Amos 4:12

Each of us has an appointment with God that we must and shall keep. Are you ready for yours? Like it or not, it is coming, and you do not know the day or the hour. Either death will take you first, or Jesus will return first. Either way, each of us shall keep that appointment with our maker after this life to face judgment. We shall all give an account of our lives and what we did with the gift of salvation the Father has provided through his son Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only way to the Father. He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6*

It is a fearful thing to head into eternity without being absolutely sure you are ready to face God and have made peace with him through Jesus Christ. Gambling with eternity is great folly, for it is a place of no return and no more mercy. Prepare to meet God NOW while you have the chance. It is not a group matter, a family matter, or a church matter. It is a matter between you and God. Don't head into eternity with uncertainty.

Reflect upon your life. Are you ready to meet God? If not, it is time to get your affairs in order and be ready always. Turn from your sins and turn to Jesus. Do not let that day come upon you like a thief. Face it now while God's grace and mercy are still available. That way, you won't face it when it comes to you unexpectedly, because then it will be too late. Heaven and Hell are real places, and the only way to heaven is repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and his sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Hell is a place of terrible eternal torment, but sadly it is the eternal destination for those who do not make a decision for Jesus. I pray you give your life to Jesus today and receive eternal life!

2. The Narrow Way to Heaven

"A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it." Isaiah 35:8

The first step in getting to a destination is being on the RIGHT road. We may run very hard and travel far, but if we are on the wrong road, it will not get us to our destination despite our efforts. The way to heaven is very specific, and it is the narrow way that Jesus leads the pilgrim through. It is the highway of holiness. If we are not on that road but have taken a wider road, a more popular road, a shortcut, or a man-made road, we may labor and strive and travel long, but in the end that road will lead to perdition, as all roads except the narrow one do.

Jesus said that way is hard to find. It is one of self-denial, holiness, and obedience. Few find it because few are willing to meet the Lord's condition for being his disciples. Not every Christian is on the narrow road. Contrary to what many say, the narrow way is not just Jesus; it is obedience to Jesus. Many will say, "*Lord, Lord*!" and he will say to them, "I *never knew you" (Matthew 7:21-23).* They had confessed and believed, but they were never on the narrow road.

It goes beyond confession; it is being crucified with Christ and following HIM wherever He leads, and that is revealed in His Word. The narrow road is doing His will, not just confessing Him.

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.” For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:13-14

"Thus says the LORD, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’" Jeremiah 6:16

3. Truth in a Generation of "My Truth, Your Truth"

"…before the LORD. For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with HIS TRUTH." Psalm 96:13

Truth is absolute, not subjective. There is only one truth and not many. Truth is a person, and it is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. *Psalm 96:13* says that God shall judge the peoples of earth with HIS TRUTH. A woke generation claims that there are many truths: "*my truth, your truth."* But this is not what God says.

Our '*truths'* are not going to help us in the end because God is the final and righteous judge of all peoples. One day we shall all stand before him to give account for what we did with HIS truth. And His truth is His Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

When Jesus stood before Pilate, the Roman governor, before his crucifixion, Pilate asked him mockingly, "*What is truth?*" Jesus did not answer Him because he knew Pilate would not hear Him.

"Jesus answered, "you say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to THE TRUTH. ***Everyone who is of the truth*** *hears My voice." "Pilate said to Him, "****What is truth****?" John 18:37-38*

Jesus boldly declared himself to be THE TRUTH. He not only came to bear witness to the truth, but He was that truth.

"Jesus said to him, "I AM the way, THE TRUTH, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17

Jesus is the truth, and therefore, he makes us free indeed! Have you believed in him? In a world of so much subjectivity and relativity, God has revealed the ultimate and absolute truth to us. Only this will make us free for all eternity. There is no other way to the Father. My truth and your truth are vanity. Jesus is the King of kings, Lord of lords, creator of the universe, and THE ultimate truth.

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free… Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." John 8:31-32, 36

Save yourself from this woke and perverse generation of many false truths and cling to Jesus!

"And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse (crooked, twisted) generation'." Acts 2:40

4. Put Your House in Order

"Put your house in order, for you are about to die; you" Isaiah 38:1

King Hezekiah was fortunate to have been given a prior warning by the prophet Isaiah about his death. Most of us will not get that warning, however. But God would speak the same words to us today: "*Put your house in order*." Death comes upon most people like a trap, suddenly and without warning.

Death does not announce its coming. Except for the few who get sick and have some sign of their demise around the corner, for most of us, death will be sudden. Let us therefore make sure we have put our houses in order each day. Repent and be born again, live holy, confess known and unknown sin and repent always and immediately, sleep without sin and grudges, forgive everyone, love everyone, and as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men, ask for mercy always, and stay packed and ready to depart when your ticket is called. Eternity beckons all.

In *Luke 12*, Jesus gave the parable of the rich fool. The man was exceedingly wealthy and boasted within himself, making plans about how he would live for many years and eat, drink, and make merry. But that very night as he made his big plans for the future, God told him, *"You fool! This very night your soul is demanded of you; and as for all that you have prepared, who will own it now?"* (*Luke 12:20*) And Jesus warned, *"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:21)*

5. A Few Names Who Have Not Defiled Their Garments

"You have a few names EVEN IN SARDIS who have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy." Revelation 3:4

No matter where we are placed and the quality and state of the faith and Church around us, the Lord has given us the ability to stand and be holy. It is an individual choice. The church in Sardis was dead and asleep, yet even in their midst, the Lord Jesus said that there were a few names, even in Sardis (*despite the dead state of the church*), who had not defiled their garments with sin and compromise. They were awake, alive, and worthy to walk with him in white, and he would not erase their names from the Book of Life.

Just like Daniel in Babylon, we can purpose not to defile ourselves. If we stand with the Lord, he too will stand with us. Jesus promises the few names in Sardis that he will confess their names before the Father and his angels when he returns, because they have confessed him with their lives and deeds.

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." Daniel 1:8

The Lord Jesus is very aware and concerned about our welfare as believers, both individually and corporately, and he is marking our records and weighing our progress. He affirms that we are good, but he also corrects our failures, warning us to repent. There are rewards for obedience and consequences for disobedience.

"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a FEW NAMES EVEN in Sardis who have NOT DEFILED THEIR GARMENTS; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Jesus to the Church in Sardis, Revelation 3:1-6

6. Jesus Is Passing by Your Way

"As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting beside the road, begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"" *Luke 18:35-38*

Every step Jesus took in his earthly ministry was deliberate. He did not encounter the people he did by accident. It may have seemed accidental and even a disturbance to others, but Jesus knew who he would encounter wherever he went, and it seems clear he went to specific roads and towns only for specific people who he knew would receive Him.

From Zacchaeus on top of the tree, blind Bartimaeus on the roadside, the Samaritan woman at the well, Jairus' daughter in bed, the woman with blood flow in the crowd, the man born blind by the pool of Siloam, the widow of Nain heading to bury her son, the demon-possessed man in the tombs of the Gadarenes, the little children brought to Jesus, and so forth. Each was a divine appointment.

Jesus finds us all in unique places and unique circumstances. He knows where we are, and nothing can stop him from meeting us. Some he meets in bars, some in churches, some in hospital beds, some at home alone, some in prison, some at work, some on the road, and so forth.

Jesus knows where you are and is ready to meet you there. Crowds, environment, and circumstances do not hinder his power. You can call to him where you are, just as blind Bartimaeus cried out to him by the roadside even when he couldn't see him and everyone told him to be quiet, and he will hear and come to you. You don't need to run to men who will take advantage of you or ask for money; run to Jesus himself directly, and you will be healed.

"Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." Luke 19:1-5

"Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. / Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs." Luke 8:22, 26-27

7. The Reality of Heaven and Hell Is for Both Sinner and Saint

"*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm 90:12*

The regenerated child of God desires to obey God. Even if there was no prospect of hell or promise of heaven, the born-again person who has experienced the goodness, love, and mercy of God and by his grace grown in understanding of his wisdom and glory would never want to willfully disobey him; it is not possible.

Once the carnal nature has truly been removed by the Spirit of God, the born-again child of God WANTS to obey God. We don't obey because of fear of hell or the promise of heaven; we obey because we are children of God, and we have tasted and seen that he is good and his commands are perfect and good.

BUT hell is still real and heaven is still real, and God, in his infinite mercy and understanding of human nature, still wants us to ever beware of what awaits in eternity because it is very easy to forget and grow lukewarm and start compromising if we don't watch, stay vigilant, and continue to grow in grace (and means thereof) and the knowledge of God.

To disregard heaven and hell is folly and to not abide in truth! Jesus never watered down these realities but warned all men and warned his disciples. A journey taken half-blind is destined to end in disaster. We must preach not only heaven and hell to sinners but also to saints!

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live." Deuteronomy 30:19

8. The Holier a Man Becomes, the More He Grieves Over His Sin

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore, I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:5-6

The holier a man gets, and the closer a man gets to God and his glory, the more aware of his sins he becomes. And so, the paradox is that the more holy a man is, the more he grieves over his slightest sins and the sins of others, but the further away a man is from God, the more prideful and self-righteous he is because he cannot see himself as he is, since he is far from the light and glory of God. He cannot see things clearly with God's vision.

This is why Paul called himself the worst of sinners even though to the world he was a saint. True holiness keeps a man in a state of constant awareness of his sin.

The great and holy prophets like Jeremiah, Elijah, Samuel, Ezekiel, and Isaiah were weepers and mourners and men of great sorrow precisely because they were more aware of their own sin and that of the people than the average priests and people. A man who is boasting about how holy he is has not begun to be holy. What he has is pride and self-righteousness, and that's why he can afford to look down upon others rather than mourn over their sins.

We see how Samuel grieved for Saul, how David mourned for Absalom, how Moses wept for the Israelites, how Paul sorrowed for the Jews who persecuted him, and how our Lord Jesus wept and suffered for sinners. That is the natural response of true holiness: both holy anger and sorrow. No truly holy man can gloat over the sins of others or glory in himself.

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” Isaiah 6:1-5

9. A New Creation, not a New Title

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

Jesus doesn't just give us a title or membership card called "*Christian*" when he saves us. No, he gives us a new nature, a new heart, a new spirit, a new mind, and a new name. He gives us new birth. We are not who we once were. Our affections change, our desires change, our friends change, our interests change, our character changes, what we love changes, and what we hate changes. We are new creatures, born again of God!

"No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1 John 3:9

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26

"Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:3-9

10. Are You (Still) on the Road Travelling to Heaven?

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

The journey to heaven must be intentional and travelled on daily. No man reached a destination to any city without travelling steadily on the road that leads there. No man is translated to a destination; he travels on it. So it is with the pilgrim to heaven. Each day he must stay and travel on the narrow road to heaven. If he deviates and takes another road, it will not lead him there. If he sleeps on the journey, he may miss his destination. If he gets distracted and sidetracked by nefarious friends and sideshows, he will not get there. If his vehicle runs out of fuel, he will not get there. If he listens to a deceiver who tells him of some shortcut and other way to heaven, he will not get there. If he takes passengers in his vehicle who discourage him, he will not get there. If he gets tired and gives up midway, he will not get there. No one gets to heaven by luck, chance, or accident. It is a carefully undertaken, focused, and largely solitary journey.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Hebrews 12:1-3

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:13-14

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

11. Repentance to God Is Humility, but Despair Is Sin

"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." 2 Corinthians 7:10

The enemy loves to pressure people with sin and lead them to run away from God because of self-condemnation. But that is the wrong turn. The best thing you can do when you sin is to run to God more and plead for mercy and ask for grace.

Cain, Esau, King Saul, and Judas are examples of people who ran away from God when they sinned and drowned in pride, self-pity, despair, shame, and worldly sorrow rather than repenting and running to God. As a result, they lost their souls. David and Peter sinned greatly, but they repented with great sorrow and humility and were restored.

Many people give up on themselves when they are trying to overcome sin and allow the enemy through condemnation to convince them to turn away from God in despair. I've been there and did that many times as a young believer years ago, and as a result, I could never produce fruit to maturity. That's the quickest way to backslide. Despair, discouragement, depression, giving up, self-pity, condemnation, and so forth do not come from God but the wicked one.

Run to God! Jesus came for sinners. Keep going to the throne of grace and keep knocking and keep seeking mercy and grace, and eventually day will dawn.

Refusing to repent and turn to God is an act of pride. It is claiming that the grace and mercy of God and the blood of Jesus are not enough for salvation. Repentance is an act of humility.

No matter what, keep running to God. Keep repenting. That is humility. Repentance is not a one-off affair. We must constantly be humbling ourselves before God, and the more so and especially when we are burdened with besetting sins. The dirty person needs to bathe even more.

God never gets tired of forgiving. Jesus is always interceding for us. It is God's glory to show mercy. He delights in showing mercy. But that doesn't mean we sin on purpose, but it means we should always go for cleansing until holiness is perfected in us to and for the glory of God. Jesus asked us to forgive our brother 70 times 7 because he too forgives us 70 times 7 when we go to him.

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

"But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says, "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

"Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the

race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

12. The Weight of Sin Leads Downward to Hell

"Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2

No man can climb up a high mountain with a heavy load. He will get weighed down and fall down each time. Sin is a weight. The burden and load of sin eventually sink a man down to hell. Hell is beneath, and heaven is above. Heaven can only be reached if we are light and without the heavy load of sin. Now the only person who can take away this load of sin is Jesus Christ. He was punished for the sins of the world. If we cast our sins upon him and take his life, he will help us to make it to heaven. He says in *Matthew 11:29-30* to take his yoke and burden because his yoke is easy and his burden is light. On the contrary, the yoke of sin is difficult and the burden heavy; it leads downwards into the pit.

Without Jesus it is impossible to be free of this yoke of sin, but he promises to bear it for those who trust in him. Jesus bore our sins on the cross, but every day he bears our sins as we trust in his blood, and his blood washes us from all sin as we repent *(1 John 1:5-10)*. If we choose to carry our sins and be slaves to sin, we cannot enter His kingdom. That burden will send us to hell. But we don't have to go there. Jesus is offering even now to take your burden and yoke of sin. Will you surrender it to him and take his eternal life?

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

"Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.'" John 8:34

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." 1 John 5:3

13. True Freedom Is Freedom from Sin's Dominion

"Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin." John 8:34

A man that is a slave to sin and his carnal passions is not free. He may live in the most democratic society, have all the human rights, and talk about being a free thinker, but he is not free as long as he is a slave to sin and passion. The only true man is the one who has found freedom from the power of sin and this world, and this is only possible through a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, the savior who alone has the power over sin, death, and hell.

It is only Jesus who offers true freedom. He frees a man from being a slave to this world, sin, and his flesh and elevates him to a higher kingdom, the kingdom of God that is not of this world and transcends this world. This is the kingdom of the truly free. Only those who have become slaves of God are truly free. Slavery to God and his righteousness is liberty because God does not bring men into bondage but frees them to be what he created them to be, his sons.

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" Romans 6:16

14. It Is Hard to Kick Against the Pricks

"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Acts 26:14

Resisting or attempting to resist God's will and God's law only hurts us. No man can fight God and prevail. Happy and blessed is he who learns this deeply within himself (although painfully at times) and learns to willingly and delightfully obey and submit to God and his commands. Like the ox with the farmer, he will find he is happier in cooperating with God than resisting him and being pricked by the ox goad (an act of self-infliction).

Woe to them who argue with their maker! God gladly welcomes humble petition and is okay with reasoning with those who genuinely seek truth. But those who want to fight and argue with God as equals will realize he is not their equal. Paul came to this realization when Jesus encountered him. God has already won. We are simply living out His victory no matter what side we choose. He is alpha and omega. Whoever sets themselves as an enemy of God has already lost.

"I would rather do him sacrifice than in a fury kick against the pricks; thou a mortal, he a god." Dionysus, The Bacchae by Euripides.

"If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." John 13:17

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:28"

"Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways." Psalm 128:1

"Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker—one clay pot among many. Does the clay ask the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'He has no hands'? Woe to him who says to his father, 'What have you begotten?' or to his mother, 'What have you brought forth?'" Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: "Concerning things to come, do you question Me about My sons or instruct Me in the work of My hands? It is I who made the earth and created man upon it. It was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I ordained all their host." Isaiah 45:9-12

15. The Devil Knows That His Fate Is Sealed

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Revelation 20:10

The devil has deceived so many people and blinded them with the deceitfulness of sin, perversion, wealth, and rebellion against God. The worst thing is that Satan knows his fate. He knows God can never be defeated, and his fate is sealed. He shall have his throne in the lake of fire forever, and around him in that forsaken place shall be the billions upon billions of human beings who ever lived, burning with him and beholding their master, whom they followed and allowed to deceive them.

It's going to be a pitifully sad end. Yet it doesn't have to be this way. Jesus paid the price for mankind, but humanity has rejected him, loved sin more, loved self more, loved this world more, and loved the devil and his promises more.

All these thousands of years God allows the world to continue are a test for humanity to prove our hearts and see who and what we love more. God's long-suffering and patience are a chance for us to repent. Yet many reject God's patience and the time he gives them and squander it.

"Remember that these forty years the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness, so that He might humble you and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commandments." Deuteronomy 8:2

God is testing all of us. He wants to know who really loves him, not just with their lips but with their heart. May God help us. The lake of fire will be eternal, and those in it will forever be able to behold the city of God and his righteous ones and regret and curse forever because they chose sin and a deceitful master who will be in the torment together with them. No one will be able to help the other in that forsaken place. They will look to the new Jerusalem forever as part of their torment.

"From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come to worship before Me," says the LORD. "As they go forth, they will see the corpses of the men who have rebelled against Me; for their worm will never die, their fire will never be quenched, and they will be a horror to all mankind." Isaiah 66:23-24

"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." 1 John 5:19

16. Attempted Robbery of God's Kingdom

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber... All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them." John 10:1, 8

Those who try to enter the kingdom of God some other way except through salvation by Jesus Christ are thieves and robbers. The Bible says no thieves shall enter the kingdom of God. These are thieves of a worse kind because they suppose to rob Jesus of his sacrifice and God of his glory and enter his kingdom by their brute force. They are usurpers and truly of their father, the devil, who tried to steal God's kingdom and God's glory in heaven and was kicked out. Trying to enter heaven by other paths—other gods, religions, spiritual paths, gurus, human intellect and wisdom, human goodness, or effort—is robbery. There is only one way and one way only: the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God (*Yahweh*), the only messiah and sacrifice for sins. It's his way or the highway to hell!

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able." Luke 13:24

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

17. Death Does Not Turn Sinners into Saints. We Die as We Lived

"If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels." Mark 8:38

At death, many people who clearly were not born again and did not have Jesus as Lord, as was visible by their works, are turned into saints and said to be with Jesus and gone to Heaven. It is great blasphemy, and we find ourselves lying against God and slandering his name when we do that.

It is best to be quiet about a person's eternal fate and preach to the living at the death of a sinner than to claim they have gone to heaven when they have not.

Lying on God is dangerous. We don't fool God, and we certainly do more damage to the living when we claim that someone is in heaven who was not on the path to heaven, because people start to think all and sundry are going to heaven, which is not true.

It is not helpful to give loved ones' false hopes about the destination of their dead who knew not Jesus. It is even better to be quiet on the matter and comfort the living and encourage them to know Jesus rather than with loud mouths claim a sinner has gone to heaven.

God is not blackmailed and will not allow anyone who doesn't belong in heaven to go to heaven because men have praised them voluminously. We don't get to heaven by men's praise and great works on earth, but by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for us and believing in him as Lord of our lives and living for him in holiness.

We can praise men's works on earth, and that is fine, but that does not equal heaven. Heaven is God's domain, and we enter there HIS WAY, NOT OUR WAY.

We cannot claim one was a secret Christian. True Christianity is a new birth; one cannot be a secret Christian. A Christian is visibly known by their life. There is no such thing as "*my relationship with God is between me and God*." God does not do clandestine affairs and relationships. He is either Lord of all or not Lord at all. If we are ashamed of him on earth, he will be ashamed of us when we stand before him.

We are all known by our fruits. Our works prove if we know him and are ashamed of him or not.

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels." Luke 9:26

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" Luke 6:46

"They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him." Titus 1:16

"Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32-33

18. Many Members, One Body of Christ, Not Bodies of Christ

"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually." 1 Corinthians 12:27

Any gift God gives a believer is for the BODY of Christ and not just for the small group of people in a building we call church.

Yes, local gatherings are important for fellowship, service, and spiritual growth. But we should always know that we belong to the universal body of Christ in heaven and earth.

We should see ourselves as members of that global body and our gifts as for this body as God leads, so that we don't limit what God would wish to do through us or limit others.

Let's not be narrow-minded and myopic and think the body of Christ is the small building in our town or village.

When Paul talks about gifts in the body or church of God, he is speaking of the entire church of God and not a house church or building only. He himself was an apostle to the entire body and not one local assembly only. Jesus does not divide up his body into pieces and factions; we do.

"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many…

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way." 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 27-31

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." Ephesians 4:11-16

19. The Glorious Freedom of the Children of God

"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." 2 Corinthians 3:17

Take responsibility for your life. Ultimately, none of us is a victim because we have a choice. We are all slaves to something by willful (even if unconscious) submission. Most people are slaves to cycles of sin and rebellion against God/disobedience.

The greatest freedom is being a slave to God and his righteousness, because that is ultimate freedom (*Romans 6:18*). When we obey God, we are free from slavery to all things.

No one can oppress you when you've submitted yourself to be a slave to God, since he is the ultimate authority in the entire universe. All yokes fall off when you do that. It's ultimate liberty. It brings true and lasting joy and peace.

Obedience to God is not oppressive; it frees us to be all he created us to be. But Satan doesn't want you to know that.

Satan wants you to think God is a burdensome slave master, while HE is the burdensome slave master who places heavy and grievous burdens and yokes on people.

Sin and rebellion are terrible slave masters, and they leave you broken and damaged.

Jesus said in *Matthew 11:28* that his yoke is EASY and his burden is LIGHT. Jesus came not to oppress us but to free us from oppression and captivity. He is the yoke breaker and burden lifter.

If you repent and surrender all to him, you will experience true freedom and be free to be the YOU he created you to be before sin gave you a false, fake, and damaged identity. You can never know your true self without your creator. And your freedom contributes to the freedom of his creation. Choose freedom.

Choose to no longer be a victim to this world, people, sin, flesh, self/ego, Satan, demons, and drama, and be free by submitting to Jesus Christ. His Lordship frees us and gives us perfect liberty.

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

"The creation waits in eager expectation for the revelation of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but because of the One who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." Romans 8:19-21

"But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." Romans 6:17-18

20. You Follow Me

"Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" / Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? you follow me." John 21:20-21

Not even the apostles of Jesus were exempt from comparing themselves with each other and falling victim to jealousy and competition among themselves, each one wanting to be the greatest. Having Jesus with them physically was not enough.

No doubt they had seen that John had an especially close relationship with Jesus and was thus called the beloved.

And so, Peter, even after receiving a great commission and personal affirmation from Jesus, still wanted to find out what John would do or how his life and ministry would be like. He wanted to compare his future with John's.

But Jesus did not play into this game and basically told Peter to mind his own business and follow him. This is because he always taught them to avoid this spirit of comparison and competition. He taught them rather to take the lowest place of service and focus on him rather than competing for positions and greatness.

Jesus would tell each of us the same thing: "*You follow me and avoid comparing yourself, your calling, or your walk with others. Follow me and fix your eyes on me. It is an individual race but not a competition*."

"For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." 2 Corinthians 10:12

21. We Shall Each Stand Before God Alone

"So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:12

We came alone into this world, we will exit alone, and we will stand before God alone. Salvation is very personal, and this life is personal. We must never compare and measure ourselves with others. God looks at each man's heart and examines his ways individually. When each of us stands before God, there will be no mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, child, church member, pastor, pope, bishop, or friends to hide behind. It will be each individual alone before the great judge Jesus Christ when the books are open and the works of men laid bare. It is for this reason Jesus said each man MUST DENY HIMSELF, take up HIS CROSS, and FOLLOW HIM. The entire New Testament is filled with warnings to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, make our own calling and election sure, and examine our walk because ultimately each one shall bear his own load before God and give account for himself and not others.

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12

"But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load." Galatians 6:4-5

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians 10:12

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10

"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God." 1 Corinthians 4:5

"On the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel." Romans 2:16

"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble." 2 Peter 1:10

"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13

"But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." Romans 14:10

"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works." Matthew 16:27

"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Matthew 12:36-37

"For God will bring every deed into judgment, along with every hidden thing, whether good or evil." Ecclesiastes 12:14

"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books." Revelation 20:12

"Who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God." Romans 2:6-11

"For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." 2 Corinthians 10:12

22. Satan Has No Friends. He Hates and Wants Everyone to Burn with Him

"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." Revelation 20:10

Satan hates human beings and hates God/Jesus. He is incapable of love. Satan lived with God for ages unnumbered. He understands God better than human beings and knows his holiness, perfection, and glory. He knows God cannot change, and he knows his end is written. Satan damned himself, and he knows there is no turning back. His fate is sealed, and he knows his destiny is written in *Revelation 20:10*: the lake of fire. He is a defeated foe with nothing to lose. Because his end is written and he knows he cannot win against God or change his destiny, his aim is to mock and insult God for his remaining time, and his chief way of doing this is to make humans rebel against God, deceive them, and take as many human beings as possible to the lake of fire with Him.

Satan knows God made man in his image and loves man and sent Jesus to die for men and not angels, and this makes him angry. And so, he wants people to reject God and follow him to the lake of fire, as he knows it hurts God. Satan knows that human beings still have a chance to repent and go to the kingdom he was kicked out of, and the thought of anyone spending eternity in heaven in perfection, bliss, and glory while he will burn forever makes him angry.

Satan has no friends; he hates all human beings, including those who foolishly serve him and believe his lies. He hates them with perfect hatred. It's such a shame that there are many human beings who think Satan is the good one and think he loves them because he gives them favors and wealth on earth. They are fools who do not know that they are only being fattened for a great slaughter in the lake of fire. Satan, who has blinded them, laughs at them and their folly. He knows what he is doing, and in the end, they will regret ever serving sin and him.

To reject God is utter folly, and yet people can't see this but think they are so wise rebelling against God. God is the good one; he is the creator, he is the winner, and no one will ever win against him because he created everything, including Satan. The end is written and cannot be changed. To fight God is a losing battle and an exercise in futility.

"Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41

"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." Revelation 12:12

"And a third angel followed them, calling out in a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on his forehead or on his hand, he too will drink the wine of God's anger, poured undiluted into the cup of His wrath. And he will be tormented in fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. Day and night there is no rest for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name." Revelation 14:9-11

"And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world." Revelation 12:9

23. All Things Were Created Through Him and for Him

“All things were created through Him and for Him." Colossians 1:15-18

All things were made by Jesus and for Jesus. Everything was made for his glory. Whatever refuses to glorify him in the end will be destroyed. He is the potter, and we are the clay. The clay vessel that serves no useful purpose is always discarded. Those who reject the King of kings, their creator, will eventually be like branches thrown into the fire. By carrying out justice on judgment day, God will receive glory even from his enemies. No one shall ever make a mockery of God or glory over him.

Even in the destruction of the wicked, God will be glorified, and they shall confess him as the King whom they refused to reign over them while they lived. In their destruction he shall still reign. To glorify God and choose to obey him as sons and live for him also benefits us, his creation. We find our joy, peace, life, purpose, and glory in him. Apart from him we are nothing. Rejecting God is self-destruction and ultimately self-hate.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence." Colossians 1:15-18

“For it is written: “As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” Romans 14:11

24. Jesus Is the Good Samaritan

“But a Samaritan on a journey came upon him, and when he saw him, he had compassion.” Luke 10:33

Jesus found us wounded, beaten, bruised, ashamed, and left for dead by the robbers of sin: humans, demons, and Satan.

Priests had passed us by and did not help us, pastors had passed us by and did not help us, and religious people had passed us by and did not help us.

But Jesus, having compassion, stopped, washed, bandaged, and cleansed our wounds of sin and shame himself, pouring in the oil of the comfort and anointing of his Holy Spirit and the wine of his healing.

He took us into his spiritual healing inn and cared for us, instructing his Holy Spirit to attend to us daily until we were healed and recovered from the ravenous damage of sin on our bodies, souls, and spirits, and he paid it all with his own blood.

Jesus is that good Samaritan full of mercy, and he never rejects those who have been forsaken and rejected and wounded by this world when others do.

Call upon him today if sin has wounded and damaged you, and he will never cast you away. He has paid the price for your complete healing and deliverance and freedom from slavery to sin and this world.

"But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus took up this question and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down the same road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So too, when a Levite came to that spot and saw him, he passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan on a journey came upon him, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Take care of him,’ he said, ‘and on my return I will repay you for any additional expense.’ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” “The one who showed him mercy,” replied the expert in the law. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:29-37

25. Repent, Because Without Holiness, No Man Shall See God

"Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

God requires repentance of us because he is holy and desires to be with us forever since he loves us. Herein lies the dilemma. God's nature is absolute holiness, and there is no darkness or sin in him. As a result, no sin and no sinner can abide with him or enter his kingdom. Mankind is born sinners, and so no one can enter God's kingdom as they are. God sent Jesus to solve this dilemma by not only paying the penalty for all people's sins, which was due, but also placing his righteousness and his Spirit within those who accept his sacrifice for them, repent from sin, and turn to him to be Lord of their lives. These ones are enabled to be holy as God is holy, not by their own efforts but by his Spirit dwelling in them and choosing to cooperate with him and continue in Christ.

God's nature cannot abide with sin, and so men must become holy to abide with God forever. God has made that way possible through the sacrifice of his son for us and giving us new birth through him. To reject this and reject holiness and continue in sin is to forfeit the kingdom of God. Those who devalue, despise, and underestimate God's holiness and his aversion to sin make light of sin and in the end shall find themselves the losers. Sin is the offspring and product of Satan, and nothing of the devil shall ever enter God's holy kingdom to corrupt it again. The choice is ours. The Bible is very clear that without holiness, no man shall see God (*Hebrews 12:14)*.

"But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in HOLY CONDUCT and GODLINESS, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?" 2 Peter 3:10-12

26. I Have Found Him Whom My Soul Loves

“We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” John 1:45

I have found Jesus of Nazareth, and I'm not letting him go. I have found the one Moses and the prophets spoke about. I have found the one who left heaven and his glory and came to suffer and be beaten like a dog on my behalf to ransom me from my slavery to sin and death. I have found my messiah, lord, and life. I have found my king and bridegroom. I have found the only one who demonstrated his love for me beyond all shadow of doubt. I have found the one who saved my soul from the lowest hell and my feet from falling. I have found the one who changed me and gave my life meaning. I have found the one my soul loves. I have found my pearl of great price, and I have sold everything to buy it. Have you found him?

"Scarcely had I passed them when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mother’s house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me." Song of Solomon 3:4

“Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” Luke 24:32

27. Fix Your Eyes on Jesus and Not Men

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

If we fix our eyes ONLY on Jesus and not men, we shall make it to that glorious city he has prepared for the saints. Fixing our eyes on him and his words, his commands, his life, his ways, and his teachings is the key. If we deviate and fix our eyes on men, churches, drama, fellow Christians, the world, problems, anxieties, riches, etc., we shall fall. We should fellowship with men only while they fellowship with Jesus. Jesus must be our anchor and centerpiece. It is Jesus who leads to heaven. If we fix our eyes on him, the author and finisher of our faith, to obey and follow him daily, we can have assurance of our salvation. Every other foundation is shaky and will never stand. No man can fix their eyes on Jesus every hour and live consciously and deliberately in sin. People fall because at some point, they turn from Jesus to self, others, or the world.

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24

"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." 1 John 2:6

28. Born Again Christians Are Not Sinners but Saints

"Anyone having been born of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him, and he is not able to continue sinning, because he has been born of God." 1 John 3:9

If we understood the price for which Christ paid for sin, the brutality the Lord faced to pay for our sins to ransom us from them, we would not make jest or light of sin. Sin is not cool, nor does it make us cool when we accommodate and make light of sin; it makes us haters of God. God hates sin so much that he had to send his own holy son to pay the price of it because otherwise all of us would have been thrown into hell. We should think of that next time we want to compromise in the name of "*grace*," "*I'm not perfect*," and "*we are all sinners*." Born-again Christians are NOT sinners; they have been redeemed from sin and are SAINTS. We should be overcoming sin since we have been freed from its dominion (*Romans 6:14*).

To claim to be a sinner and a slave to sin is to confess that you're not born again. Whether we like it or not, no sinners shall enter heaven, and so the choice is ours. There are false Christianities being peddled in our day where people just go around saying they are powerless over sin and we are all sinners. Those are lies from the pits of hell leading people to damnation. Once saved, it is your business to be holy as your father is holy, and he has given us the power to be holy by his Spirit dwelling within us. We are not like those who don't know God.

"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." Romans 6:14

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" Romans 6:1-2

"It is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

29. Hell Enlarges Itself Daily, but the City of God Is Measured

"Therefore, hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it." Isaiah 5:14

The Bible says hell has enlarged itself. Hell is never full. Daily it enlarges itself to accommodate the multitudes and nations that descend there. It's a terrible thing. But the city of God has already been measured (*Revelation 21:16—approximately 2,200 km/1,400 miles in length, width, and height*), and the number of the redeemed and elect are known by God and written in the Lamb's book of life. Jesus said that many take the broad way and wide gate to hell, while few take the narrow gate and difficult way to heaven. All through the Bible it's made clear that the redeemed will be fewer than the damned. This is because the majority always choose their own ways, their own wisdom; they choose sin and rebellion against God in their daily lives rather than submission and obedience to Jesus. Where will our portion be?

It doesn't take much to go to hell; it just takes doing nothing, living life as we please, and not choosing to follow Jesus and let him be Lord and savior of our lives. To enter the kingdom of heaven is difficult because it takes repentance, denying self, forsaking sin, living holy lives of fear and trembling, and following the Lord Jesus as obedient sheep till the end. The goats take the broad way, while the sheep take the narrow way.

"Hell and destruction are never full." Proverbs 27:20

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psalm 9:17

"Hell from beneath is excited about you, to meet you at your coming; it stirs up the dead for you, all the chief ones of the earth; it has raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations." Isaiah 14:9

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:14-15

30. Do Not Give the Devil a Foothold

"Do not give the devil an opportunity (foothold, place)." Ephesians 4:27

The only protection against demonic spirits and the devil is repentance and salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ and HOLINESS. Without holiness demons always have access to come into someone's life. The Holy Spirit cannot share a temple with sin, demons, and idols; he will leave. The spiritual world works through legalities. Sin is the property of Satan. We can call ourselves born again all we want, but if we live in sin and disobedience to God, demons have a legal right to oppress us and access our lives. They come where their property is, and sin is their property. Sin opens the door for devastation, untimely death, sickness, failure, and evil and places one in danger of damnation without repentance. The only way to live a truly blessed and peaceful life is to live a holy life. Only the holy Christian is protected and truly blessed by God because he alone is truly God's child.

If Jesus is Lord, live for him and stop double-dealing. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways and will never receive anything from God. God hates lukewarmness. God does not approve of sin; he turns away from it and those who practice it.

"We know that anyone born of God does not keep on sinning; the One who was born of God (Jesus Christ) PROTECTS HIM, and the EVIL ONE CANNOT touch him. We know that we are of God, and that the whole world is under the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true—in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:18-21

"I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me." John 14:30

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.” Matthew 12:43-45

"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." James 4:4

"And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” 2 Corinthians 6:16

31. Only One Mediator Between Men and God

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5

Not even one person will ever enter heaven for being a '*nice*' or '*good*' person. No human being can ever be good enough for heaven; God's standards of holiness are too high for a mere man to attain. Entrance to heaven is through washing with the blood of Jesus Christ by repentance and accepting him as the only savior and receiving his life, his Spirit, and his righteousness. Anything and everything else is self-righteousness, and it is detestable before God. To reject his Son and his sacrifice of himself and hope to enter heaven by your good works and efforts is an abomination and insult to God. There is only one door to heaven, and that is Jesus Christ, the son of God, and his shed blood on the cross. Without that, everything else is worthless and ends in one place, the lake of fire, where all the rebellious who reject Jesus Christ shall have their end together with Satan, who deceived them.

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

32. God Cannot Be Bribed or Bought

“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22

God is interested in our obedience to him, repentance, and turning away from sin, not our money, service, sacrifices, or big titles and buildings. God sees everything and cannot be bribed. He made everything, so how can a man bribe him or buy him with worthless silver and gold and unrighteous service? God is interested in his glory and the honor of his great name. He is glorified when all his creation obeys, honors, and glorifies him by keeping his commands and his laws. Offering gifts and sacrifices to God while we disobey him is an insult to him, and such defiled offerings are cursed and never accepted by him. It is all self-deception leading nowhere but destruction.

"Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!" Acts 8:20

"To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." Proverbs 21:3

"For you do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; you do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise." Psalm 51:16-17

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:6-8

“When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courts? Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers,

I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. For you do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; you do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise." Isaiah 1:12-17

33. Woe to That Man by Whom the Son of Man Is Betrayed

"The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." Matthew 26:24

Judases will exist until Jesus returns. Many of the Lord's professed followers, like Judas, still betray him for their own thirty pieces of silver. They betray Jesus for fame, wealth, money, spiritual power, church positions, big titles and names, large congregations, political favors, worldly influence, big cars, women, fancy clothes, lavish lifestyles, seats among 'influential' people, book deals, and so forth. These tares among the wheat shall continue among the Lord's people until the day of judgment, when the Lord shall put them on his left hand with their fellow goats. Like Judas, they will wish they had never been born when the Lord tells them, "*I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness."*

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Matthew 7:21-23

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left ... Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me." Matthew 25:31-33; 41-43

"The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore, as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Matthew 13:38-43

34. Eternal Danger of Adding and Subtracting from God's Words

"And if anyone should take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and out of the holy city, of those having been written in this book." Revelation 22:19

The Bible is a divine book. It's the word of God from his own mouth and heart and spoken through his chosen prophets and apostles inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is not a book of human wisdom where we argue and debate and pick and choose what to obey and what not to obey. Every word of God is divine and established forever.

Those Christians who like to twist, ignore, despise, erase, rate, skip, jump, and replace the word of God are in grave danger of being erased from the book of life and losing their portion in the tree of life and the Holy City God has prepared for his saints. Despising God does not end well. What God has spoken touches on his character and integrity. To question his word is to call him a liar.

It's not our job to pick and choose which scriptures seem fit for us and ignore the rest. All of God's words are equally holy, and none shall fall to the ground. We shall be judged by his Holy word. Our job is to obey and comply. What God has spoken; he has spoken.

"Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar." Proverbs 30:5-6

"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." Deuteronomy 4:2

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"For You have magnified Your word above all Your name." Psalm 138:2

"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." John 12:48

35. Heaven and Earth Are witnesses

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you." Deuteronomy 30:19

Shall the oceans, beasts, fowls, sea creatures, the sun, moon, and stars fear and obey God and abide in their appointed habitations and times century after century, and shall men, who are of all creatures made in the image of God, think they shall rebel against God and choose to follow after their own ways and escape? God forbid. I tell you the truth: on judgment day, even rocks, mountains, hills, the sun, the moon, and inanimate objects shall testify against mankind for their sins. There shall be no escape on that great day if we do not repent, for all creation is witness of all that happens under the sun!

"And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God." Joshua 24:27

"And do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones." Matthew 3:9

"But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." Luke 19:40

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books." Revelation 20:11-12

36. I Never Knew You: Don't Be a Stranger to Jesus

"When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.'" Luke 13:25-27

No relationship can grow without time and effort. A relationship with Jesus without time and effort is a sham that will soon crumble. Jesus is a person, and he desires a relationship with those who claim to be his bride. We can't settle for knowing OF him or ABOUT him as if he were a fictional character in a storybook. If we name his name and truly wish to know him and be known by him, we must make every effort to spend time with him daily and give him the best time of our day. If we make time for everything else and ignore our Lord, why should he make time for us? If we ignored him and never took time to know him on earth, should he allow strangers into his kingdom? We may find him telling us, *"Depart from me; I know not whence you are."* People only know those they have a relationship with and not strangers.

A relationship with Jesus is formed with Jesus directly and not proxies like churches or human priests. No wife has a relationship with her husband through middlemen.

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Matthew 7:21-23

37. Foreigners and Strangers

"By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:9-10

As disciples of Jesus, we are strangers and foreigners on earth. We are not supposed to feel at home here. So, if you feel out of place here and homesick, it is proper and natural. We are here for a short time to fulfill our father's work and go home where we belong. For the true child of God, this world feels foreign, strange, and uncomfortable because it is wicked, but understanding that we are ambassadors and here temporarily provides hope and motivation to do our father's work and endure so that we may gain a worthy entrance back home. This world is not a holiday place for us, but a harvest field.

"Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul." 1 Peter 2:11

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." 1 John 2:15-17

We must, as children of God, live in this world as those living in tents, just like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did, knowing that here we have no enduring city because we are looking for that city that has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Not literally living in tents, but as temporary dwellers with no permanence here, holding everything lightly.

"But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away." 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

38. No Heaven by Proxy

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12

Each one of us must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Another's spiritual efforts and discipline cannot be ours. Each one must cultivate his own relationship with the Lord Jesus. No man shall be a door for another. No man can pray prayers, read the Bible, fast, or live holy for the other. Each man must carry his own cross and follow Jesus. The five foolish virgins wanted the wise virgins to give them some of their oil when they heard that the bridegroom was coming. They were unprepared and thought they could get into the wedding through the efforts of the wise virgins. The cross of Jesus made us equal. We no longer have human mediators who can seek God on our behalf. Each man shall be judged for his own works and life. There will be no entrance into heaven by proxy or association. Each man shall give account of himself. Therefore, let us make every effort to be accounted worthy.

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." Matthew 25:1-8

"So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:12

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24

39. The Books Were Opened

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and BOOKS WERE OPENED. AND ANOTHER BOOK WAS OPENED, WHICH IS THE BOOK OF LIFE. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-15

On the day of judgment, when the books are opened before the great, just, and righteous Judge, who has no partiality, there will be no bribery.

Titles won't matter. Who you knew on earth won't matter. Your money and good looks won't matter. What kind of family you belonged to won't matter. Denominational affiliations won't matter. Who your pastor was won't matter. How many years you were a church member won't matter. Your popularity in the world won't matter. Your fancy clothes and the car you drove and the house you lived in won't matter. Your church membership count won't matter. The number of conferences you attended won't matter. What will matter on that day are those books and what's recorded in them; our deeds will be weighed and tested.

Will our names be found in the Lamb's Book of Life? Does Jesus know us?

40. Sinning Willfully While Claiming to Be Saved Leads to Damnation

"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:26-31

To live in sin again after Jesus has been crucified for sin and as sin for our redemption is a great blasphemy against the blood of Jesus. The greatest judgment is reserved for those who profess to know him but live like the devil, doing the works of the devil (sin). It's better to be cold than lukewarm. Those who sin and hide behind "grace" are storing up for themselves God's greatest wrath on the day of judgment. They are twice dead—children of Satan masquerading as children of God—and that's why their judgment will be worse. Better those who boldly claim Satan as their father than those who deceive themselves and think they deceive God. God shall judge most severely those who dare trample his Son and the blood he shed on that cross.

Let us not play around with sin if we claim to be born again, because it is only self-deception. Jesus has nothing to do with sin, and no sin shall enter his kingdom. He suffered brutally for it. To pick it up again is to despise him. He has given us his life and his spirit to enable us to be holy as he is holy.

God will avenge his son's blood on all mankind who have rejected him and his shed blood, and those who claimed to have been saved by it but went back to serving sin. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

41. Bearing the Image of the Heavenly Man

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29

To inherit the kingdom of God, we must bear the image of Christ, the heavenly man. No person who has not borne the image of Christ shall enter his kingdom. Jesus came to earth and took on our nature, died, and rose again in his glorified body so that he could purchase redemption for the sons of men and make a way for them to become like him by partaking in his death, burial, and resurrection by faith. When we are united with him in the likeness of his death, we become united with him in the likeness of his resurrection. This is why Jesus has to take on the nature of man, to be a qualified high priest for us and make a way for us to become sons of God like he is.

Those who bear only the image of Adam until death and do not take on the image of Christ through faith in HIM will have no part in the kingdom of God. Flesh and blood cannot inherit God's kingdom. Only those born of the Spirit who have taken on the nature of the second Adam, Jesus Christ, shall inherit the kingdom of God. No carnal man shall enter God's holy kingdom. Heaven is for the born-again who have died with Christ, have taken on his nature, and are being conformed to his image day by day. The kingdom of God is for sons/children of God, born of him.

"However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.

"And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption." 1 Corinthians 15:46-50

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection." Romans 6:1-5

"For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 2:10

42. Hell Will Be Filled With 'Christians'

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" Luke 6:46

The term "Christian" can be and has been corrupted, and that's why neither Jesus nor the apostles came up with it. The citizens of Antioch who were pagans came up with it to refer to Christ's followers. True Christianity is not a label, institution, or religion but a pathway and lifestyle.

There is nothing wrong with the term, of course, as it is supposed to mean followers of Christ, but it has lost all meaning in our days.

Most people who say they are Christians are not born again or disciples of Christ. It is simply a box people tick in job, passport, and school applications, or use to give themselves association, identity, and membership in society, perhaps because they were raised in churchgoing families.

Many use the term "Christian" simply because they believe a set of historical facts about Jesus Christ. They believe in Jesus much the same way demons believe. Demons believe and tremble (*James 2:19*). Satan also believes and knows without doubt that Jesus is the son of God, but that will not save him.

"*Christian*" has become a label, a sort of membership card, but it does not reflect the majority of those who use it. Even the prostitute on the street corner, the adulterer, the liar, the thief, the homosexual, the sexually immoral, the drunk in the bar, and the corrupt politician often claim to be Christians but are on the broad way to hell.

The early Christians called themselves followers of the way or disciples and servants/slaves of Christ. Now, those are not identities a sinner can use without appearing as an obvious liar and hypocrite, because those terms clearly imply obedience to a path and a person. It means obedience. A disciple obeys his master. Following THE WAY is following Jesus, his commandments, and his narrow way to heaven. Being a servant or slave means obedience.

But Christian, everyone is a Christian now. Hell will be filled with "*Christians*," but it will not be filled with disciples and servants/slaves of Christ.

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" James 2:19

43. Born Twice, Die Once. Born Once, Die Twice

"Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:3-9

If you are not born again of water and the Spirit, you cannot enter the kingdom of God. These are Jesus' own words. We don't enter God's eternal kingdom because we are good people, kind people, generous people, intelligent and wise people, religious people, woke people, or popular people. We enter because we are born again of God by water (*washing of regeneration*) and the Spirit (God's Spirit). If all you have is the fleshly birth of your mother and father alone, you cannot enter God's kingdom. You must be born again from above.

Born twice (*flesh and spirit*), die once (*flesh*). Born once (*flesh*), die twice (*flesh and spirit eternity*). Salvation rescues us from the second death in the lake of fire, reconciles us to God as Father, and gives us a new nature that is holy and can please God and be worthy of his holy kingdom.

"*But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:4-7*

44. Invest in Your Eternity

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36-37

So many people are masters at wealth and business investment, and as a result, they are extremely successful in this life. Yet most of these people are sadly making no investment for the life to come, which will be ETERNAL. They busy themselves, toiling night and day to invest and leave earthly inheritance for their children, while they take the greatest risk of all, which is crossing the veil of death into eternity with zero investment and security for the world to come. Thinking themselves wise because of earthly acumen and success, they venture into eternity as fools, like a man jumping out of an airplane in the high skies without a parachute but hoping to somehow land safely. Oh, folly of follies. The wise man first takes care of that which lasts eternally, his soul, before worrying about the temporary here and now, which is perishing.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

45. The Final Judgment

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left." Matthew 25:31-33

It is not before a man we shall stand on the great day of judgment to give account for our lives, but before the great God Almighty, Yahweh, the creator of the heavens, earth, and sea and all that therein is; Him, before whom heaven and earth flee because of His fearsome glory; He who shows no partiality or favoritism. Therefore, since this great appointment is coming for each of us and will not fail, we must take heed to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, because our God is a consuming fire. It is appointed unto man to die once, and after that, the judgment. Each one of us shall step through the veil of death to meet our creator. Make peace with him while you're still on the way through his son, whom he sent to be both messiah and Lord.

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books... And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-12, 15

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with REVERENCE and GODLY FEAR. For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28-29

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in HOLY CONDUCT and GODLINESS, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." 2 Peter 3:10-13

“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand

thousand ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened." Daniel 7:9-10

46. In This World You Shall Have Tribulation

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation (affliction, distress, anguish, persecution); but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

For the disciple of Jesus Christ, this world is not our home. We were never supposed to feel at home and at peace in this world. In fact, Jesus promised us that we wouldn't. He never promised his followers fame, fortune, comfort, friendship with, and ease in this world. Instead, he told us to expect tribulation, sorrow, persecution, being hated by the world, being misunderstood, falsely accused, despised, and rejected for his name. Jesus told us he was not coming to bring peace but a sword and division. A man's enemies would even be members of his own family. Our precious Lord told us, *"In this world you WILL have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

Apostle Paul likewise told believers in his letters to expect and endure tribulations and hardships in HOPE. What keeps the believer going in the midst of these things is the hope of what God has promised and kept for those who endure to the end and overcome this world. Our citizenship is in heaven; we are pilgrims on earth, groaning for the redemption of our bodies (*Romans 8:23*) and to be clothed with our glorified ones and be free from this bondage of corruption (*2 Corinthians 5:2*). That is the hope of the true believer. Do not give up, pilgrim; keep the reward and the goal in mind.

God has prepared a wonderful kingdom, the new Jerusalem, a new earth, new heavens, and new glorified bodies for his own; a kingdom of righteousness free from sin and evil awaits us. That's our best hope. In that day God will wipe away every tear from our eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things will have passed away.

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who

overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Revelation 21:1-7

47. Faithful Bride of Christ

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." Revelation 19:7-8

Christ is the head of the Church and bridegroom of his bride. The Bible refers to the holy bride of Christ as his wife. The relationship of human husband and wife is meant to be a reflection of our relationship with Christ. The way a husband is commanded to treat his wife is exactly how Christ loves his Church. He loves her, sanctifies her, cleanses her, nourishes her, and cherishes her. Christ demonstrated his love by dying for his bride, and he continues even now to love her and intercede for her at the right hand of the Father until the end.

We who consider ourselves the bride of Christ must likewise do our part and love Christ as the wife is supposed to love her husband by submitting to him and respecting him. We do this by obeying Jesus and submitting to his commands and his will for us. We prove our love for him by being loyal and faithful to him and not committing adultery with sin, the world, and the world. That's the bride he is coming back for. Since we are one Spirit with the Lord, we must be united to him in all things and be of one mind, heart, and purpose with him. Love is displayed by action.

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So, husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Ephesians 5:22-32

48. Knowledge of the Holy One Is Understanding

"You dwell in the midst of deception; in their deceit they refuse to know Me," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 9:26

Knowing God gives you confidence. A baby who doesn't know their parents well can be picked up by a stranger and go home with them because they don't know their mother well yet. A baby who doesn't understand what poison is can just pick up medicine in the house and rat poison and eat it. This is how most Christians are. Because they have refused to grow up and know their father through spending time with him and eating the word of God and listening to the Holy Spirit through the word, they willingly consume leaven, thinking it is good food, and they willingly follow strangers and go home with them. They think they are following Jesus, but Jesus doesn't know them because they have forsaken him for strangers because they don't know his voice or care to.

Laziness is destructive for a believer. There is no human being, however anointed, who can ever know and follow Jesus on your behalf. Jesus doesn't want secondhand relationships through "mediators." He already died to tear the veil and make access to God possible through HIM. To reject this and choose human mediators and shortcuts is blasphemy.

"Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ... Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them… But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:5, 7, 8, 26, 27

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10

49. Solid Foundation of God's Unchangeable word

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35

How wonderful that we have a God who never changes. He is stable and fixed and has INTEGRITY. He never lies, never changes; what he speaks is established, his word endures forever, and he has exalted his Word above all his name. By magnifying his word above his name, God is giving his absolute assurance that his word cannot change or be shaken. We can trust him securely and implicitly; we can trust his word above anything.

"I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name." Psalm 138:2

God is not moved by emotions, feelings, manipulations, or man's whims and desires. He is not fickle or capricious. And we should be glad God is absolute truth because then we know we are built on a firm foundation. The earth is not moved and stands to this day because God keeps his word.

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." Malachi 3:6

Heaven and earth will pass away, but his word never shall. If we build our lives on his word and his word alone, we likewise will not be shaken. But the moment we move away from his word and turn to our subjective experiences, feelings, emotions, and other men's words, experiences, whims, desires, feelings, visions, dreams, and emotions, we are doomed because those things are not imperishable or fail-proof. Human beings fail, lie, see in part, and are fickle, but God's word is established and cannot be changed and never lies.

"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor, a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" Numbers 23:19

Only God's word is imperishable. Build your life upon his word. But you must get to know his word first. It's the greatest treasure. His promises are yes and amen in Christ.

If you build your life on GOD'S HOLY WORD, YOU WILL NEVER FALL. Jesus has given us that promise.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." Matthew 7:24-27

50. We Die Once, and After This, the Judgment

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." Hebrews 9:27

Chances are high that death will meet you before Jesus's second coming does. Death can come at any moment. Tonight, tomorrow, or the next hour may be our last moment on earth. Seeing we may step into eternity to meet our maker alone at any moment, are we prepared to meet our God? Have we made peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only mediator between man and God and the only savior? It is appointed to man to die once, and after this, judgment. Any second, any of us may slip into eternity, where man is no longer in control and no longer has free will. After this earth, we step into the eternal, where Christ judges all by his shed blood. Now is the day of salvation. Ponder your soul, ponder your ways. You will stand before your creator to give account when man's day is over, to determine your eternal fate. Prepare to meet your God.

"Prepare to meet your God." Amos 4:12

51. Christianity Is Not a Spectator Sport

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher." Luke 6:40

As disciples of Jesus, we are not called to be pew warmers but disciple makers. Jesus didn't commission us to "go into all the world and build churches," but to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all things he commanded. Churches should be a means to the end of making disciples who make disciples, not an end in themselves. He called us to be like Him and do what He did. We are not called to be spectators of a few men on a pulpit but active participants in the kingdom of God. We have all been equally recruited into his army.

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" Amen." Matthew 28:18-20

52. Greasy, Cheap Grace Is Not the Grace of Our Lord Jesus

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude 1:3-4

If you sit under greasy, cheap grace teachings and churches, you will become as cheap and greasy as they are. It is impossible to live a holy life in churches where sin is excused under the cover of "grace." Your belief that it is impossible to be holy will keep you from being holy and place your soul in danger. We become what we believe. If we believe lies and false teachings, we too become liars and false before God. We must never play around when it comes to our souls. Who you follow, what you sit under, and what you believe and listen to will determine the quality of your faith. If you want a quality faith that resembles Jesus and the early church, you must submit yourself fully to the imperishable word of God and not men's twisted interpretations. The word alone must be your ultimate teacher. The Holy Spirit teaches all things to those who are humble and not those who love traditions of God more than Jesus.

Once saved is NOT always saved. Christians who live in unrepentant, willful sin will not inherit the kingdom of God and usually have their names erased from the book of life (*Revelation 3:5)*. God demands obedience and holiness from his children (*Hebrews 12:14*). That is proof that we are truly born again and love the Lord (*John 14:15*). Don't be deceived by false grace and eternal security deceptions that you can live how you please and still inherit the kingdom of God. Those are doctrines of demons. The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

"Anyone having been born of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him, and he is not able to continue sinning, because he has been born of God." 1 John 3:9

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

"Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever." 1 Peter 1:23

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you

were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

53. God Hates Slander and Gossip

"*Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure." Psalm 101:1-5*

Avoid as much as possible people who always like speaking evil of others, whether that evil is true or not. Don't entertain it because God will number you with them. God hates slander and gossip. He considers it murder and violence. And especially among believers, it is especially grievous to God because we are supposed to bless and speak life, and not curse. There is a difference between speaking against evil and sin and getting into personal attacks on people. Let's be careful.

God considers every harm done to anyone to be done to himself, whether that harm is done to an evil person or a good person. What we do to others we do to God. We cannot love God and hate our neighbor; it's not possible. Hatred is not from God but from Satan. The first person ever to hate his brother was Cain, and the Bible says he belonged to Satan.

Whoever hates has not known God. We are called to a higher standard as followers of Jesus: to love as he loved the world. To be willing to lay down our lives for our enemies. When we hate others, we are placing ourselves in a position of being even greater than God, and the one who does that is Satan. Love is the proof that we know God.

"You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son." Psalm 50:20

"This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did Cain slay him? Because his own deeds were evil, while those of his brother were righteous. So do not be surprised, brothers, if the world hates you." 1John 3:11-13

"The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool." Proverbs 10:18

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, outcry (clamor, shouting) and slander, along with every form of malice." Ephesians 4:31

"A perverse man spreads dissension (strife), and a gossip (whisperer)divides close friends." Proverbs 16:28

"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Matthew 12:36-37

54. Don't Be a Coward

"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Revelation 21:8

Cowards do not inherit God's kingdom. We must stand for God's truth, which is his word. Truth is absolute, and it is Jesus Christ. We need a generation of truth speakers who fear God only and are willing to die for it, just as our fathers, the apostles, and our Lord did. Cowardly Christianity is embarrassing. Jesus himself said we'd rather be hot or cold, but the lukewarm he will vomit out of his mouth *(Revelation 3:16).* If God is our father, let's honor him and stop straddling fences.

The way to overcome fear is to be righteous. Jesus makes us brave. When you have peace with the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell, you CANNOT fear those who can only kill the body. You can't kill a dead person. True Christians already died with Christ. We don't fear death or man.

"The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion." Proverbs 28:1

55. Build Your Life Upon the Solid Rock of the Word of God

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." Matthew 7:24-27

If our faith is to stand, it cannot be built on subjective experiences like people's personal dreams, visions, revelations, or experiences. Our faith has a solid foundation; it's objective and built on the absolute truth of God's Holy Word. We don't build our faith on fallible men and their dreams, revelations, visions, and experiences. These are not scripture. They are subjective and not reliable. Everything must stand the test of God's word.

Those who do not build their faith and lives upon the SOLID foundation of the word of God by hearing (reading is also hearing) and obeying it are always tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, shipwrecking their faith.

"That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting." Ephesians 4:14

There is no other foundation for our faith than that which was laid. The foundation is the teachings of the prophets and apostles of our Lord and Jesus himself, who is the word, being the chief cornerstone (*Ephesians 2:20*). The apostles and prophets mentioned there are the Old Testament prophets who ended with John the Baptist and the 13 apostles of Jesus. The Canon of Scripture is closed.

If anyone preaches another gospel, Jesus, or spirit than the one we have received, we are not to receive them. If they contradict scripture, we must not receive them.

"For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!" 2 Corinthians 11:4

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20

Jesus said whoever HEARS his WORDS and DOES (obeys) them is like the man who builds his house upon the ROCK. That house shall stand despite rain, floods, and winds. The one who does not hear or obey is like the one who builds his house upon the sand. That house shall fall greatly.

"Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever." 1 Peter 1:23

56. In Hope of Eternal Life

"Paul, a bondservant of god and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of god's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which god, who cannot lie, promised before time began." Titus 1:1-2

The believers' blessed hope is the eternal life that God, who cannot lie, has promised us. We have an eternal hope. This world is not our home. We are pilgrims here. Our citizenship is in heaven. Our great hope, expectation, indeed our joy, is that one day the Lord has promised to raise our corruptible bodies and give us incorruptible bodies like his body, and we shall rule and reign and live with him for eternity. For us death has no power.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable, but praise God we are of all people most blessed because our hope is eternal and cannot fail because God, who cannot lie, has promised it. Paul reminds us to comfort one another with these words. Believers rarely do anymore, but this is our comfort in all afflictions and persecutions: that our life is eternal and no one can take that from us. Our Lord shall return and make all things new one day and execute vengeance on all his and our enemies—all those who obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be of good cheer, beloved pilgrim, because Christ has overcome this world. Don't be shortsighted. Remember the inheritance awaiting you. Be bold in the Lord. Our king has overcome. This world has nothing on us. They who kill the body cannot kill the soul. Fight the good fight and lay hold on eternal life, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Amen and Hallelujah. Comfort yourself with the powerful scripture reminders below:

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." Philippians 3:20-21

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:12

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 1:1

"Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13

57. What We Behold, We Become

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18

What and who a person spends most of their time around, they end up becoming like. This is why many husbands and wives who are intimate start to resemble each other and even talk and act alike over the years. When we behold the Lord by spending time with him, meditating on his word, and contemplating heavenly things, we are gradually transformed into his image from glory to glory. We are transformed as we renew our minds with God's word, which carries his glory when illumined by the Holy Spirit. This is putting on the new man.

"Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24

"Put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him." Colossians 3:10

"And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man."1 Corinthians 15:49

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2

58. Men Are Saved by Hearing the Gospel

"For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." 1 Corinthians 1:21

If you use entertainment and gimmicks to draw people to Jesus, you do them more harm than good to their souls. The gospel is Jesus Christ, not sports, entertainment, lights, and gimmicks.

Men must hear the gospel message that they are sinners without hope, have sinned against a holy God, can never be righteous on their own, and are destined to hell; that God sent Jesus, his son, out of love and mercy and grace to be an atonement (sacrificial lamb*)* for our sins, paying the penalty for sin we could never pay, making justice for sin and reconciliation with God possible. That he died and rose again the third day, defeating sin, death, and hell and buying eternal salvation for those who believe in him and his sacrifice and place all their trust in him.

That those who repent (confess and turn away from their sins) and believe the good news of what Jesus did on the cross, accepting him as their savior and Lord, are born again. The Holy Spirit dwells in such people and makes them new creatures, washing them, regenerating, and renewing them to make them obedient children of God.

This is the gospel message. It is not "*Jesus loves you and has a good plan for your life and accepts you as you are*."

"We preach Christ crucified." 1 Corinthians 1:23

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was [bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:5-6

"I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'" Acts 26:17-18, Jesus commissions Paul to preach the gospel

"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:9-10

59. How to Overcome the Devil

Satan is legalistic and the accuser of the brethren. The only way to overcome him is to obey God. The same way angels of God record everything we do, Satan and his demons also have records, and they miss nothing. It's only human beings who think there are secrets, but in the spiritual realm everything is visible to both sides. Revelation 12 gives us the key to overcoming the accuser.

"Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.'" Revelation 12:11

1. **By the blood of the Lamb**: When the Bible says they overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, it does not mean just saying "I plead the blood of Jesus" like a mantra. It means submission. The blood of Jesus ONLY works for those who have submitted to it by having Jesus as savior and Lord, confessing and forsaking their sins, and walking in the light. Someone living in sin and pleading the blood of Jesus is a joke to the devil. *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7*

2. **The word of their testimony**: The word of their testimony is a life that bears witness to the truth of Jesus and his word. It is a holy life. Satan and his demons know who is a real Christian and who is pretending. They too observe our testimony.

3.**They did not love their lives unto death**: that is, they carried their crosses and denied themselves to follow Christ. They knew that they were not of this world and were willing even to die for their faith. And so the enemy had no claim on them and nothing in them.

It's only this kind of living that overcomes the enemy, for he will have nothing to accuse the person about concerning disobedience to God. James affirms the same:

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded." James 4:7-8

60. Test Everything by God's Word, Not Your Feelings

"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." John 12:48

Test everything by God's word, not your feelings. The heart is deceitful above all things (*Jeremiah 17:9*). You can't test spirits with feelings; only God's word, which is ultimate and absolute truth.

The word of God is the ONLY WAY to test false prophets. Just because someone is nice, sweet, and looks humble does not mean they can't be false. Satan masquerades as an angel of LIGHT, not darkness. Never be afraid to doubt someone if they contradict the word of God. If we have no measure of absolute truth as Christians, we are doomed. But fortunately, we have God's holy word inspired by the Holy Spirit himself.

Here is an example:

"Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; WHOM NO MAN HATH SEEN, NOR CAN SEE: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen." 1 Timothy 6:15-17 ("For there shall no man see me, and live" Exodus 33:20, and also Deuteronomy 4:12, John 1:18)

This verse says clearly no man has seen God or can see God. But there are false prophets who see visions who have become popular around the world who claim to have seen **God the Father** face-to-face in heaven, looked into his eyes, played with his beard, eaten food with him, sat on his lap, and such like things, and because their visions are very sensational and appeal to human emotions, people just believe them and ignore God's word. They are liars or deceived because they contradict the word of God.

This is very dangerous because the moment they place their trust in such a prophet, they are worshipping a false god and following him to hell. God is a jealous God.

We have to understand that the word of God is infallible. It is flawless and perfect; it is fail-proof. And that's why Satan is attacking God's word and deceiving people with strange teachings that the Bible is not inerrant and is written by men or that there are some missing and secret books (many of these books contradict God's word). Satan knows God's word is the sword of the Spirit and the final authority that will judge men on judgment day. He knows if he gets you to disbelieve or despise God's word or never read it, you will sin against God, and he can accuse you and access your life to deceive you more, and you will be condemned on the day of judgment.

Please value God's word in these days. Eat it daily like food. It is food for your spirit. Remember what Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. What words was he referring to? Not visions or words from prophets and dreams. He was quoting scripture. Jesus always quoted the scriptures and never contradicted them.

Let's be like Jesus and his dear servants Job and David.

"I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12

"I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11

"How sweet are Your words to my taste—sweeter than honey in my mouth!" Psalm 119:103

"They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb." Psalm 19:10

Please don't go beyond what is written.

"...learn from us not to go beyond what is written." 1 Corinthians 4:6

"To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20

61. Righteousness and Lawlessness

"Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous. The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start." 1 John 3:7-8

Satan and his children = Lawlessness

Jesus and his children = Righteousness

Satan is lawless. He has been fighting God's law since heaven, and in the garden of Eden, he convinced Eve and Adam to commit lawlessness.

Jesus is the lawgiver. He hates lawlessness and loves righteousness.

We prove we love Jesus by keeping His commandments (*John 14:15*).

"In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother." 1 John 3:10

Christians and churches that preach that it's okay to sin and break God's laws without penalty are lawless and are not worshipping Jesus no matter what they proclaim with their LIPS. Satan masquerades as an angel of light. Many are worshipping Satan, thinking they are worshipping Jesus.

In *Matthew 7:21,* all these preachers and people who thought they were serving Jesus were committing lawlessness, and he told them to DEPART because he NEVER KNEW THEM. If Jesus never knew them, who were they worshipping? Self-deception is the worst form of deception.

The Antichrist will be anti-law. He is the lawless one. He will be able to deceive all the Christians who are already committing lawlessness.

You can WORK for Jesus and claim Jesus and call him LORD and still end up in HELL. Obedience and righteousness are the true marks of the bride of Christ. We are known by our fruits, not professions and not service. The fruit of the Spirit of God in the believer is holiness (*Romans 6:22*).

"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." Romans 6:22

"But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and HATED LAWLESSNESS; Therefore God, your God, has anointed you. With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." Hebrews 1:8-9

"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And

everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him." 1 John 3:2-6

62. The Mystery of Lawlessness

"A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed." Matthew 16:4

Jesus said that a wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign.

Christians who are always seeking after signs and miracles and power, chasing after prophecies, running from this man to that man, and from this new revelation to that new revelation, sadly are the perfect candidates to receive the man of lawlessness when he comes. The antichrist spirit and mystery of lawlessness, which will finally unveil the man of sin (Antichrist), has always been at work in the world. It is the spirit of rebellion against God, his kingdom, and his righteousness.

Those who chase power, money, signs, and wonders are already subjecting themselves to the antichrist spirit and turning away from the Lord. Those who take the mark of the beast when the time comes will be those who had already in their hearts turned away from the Lord, seeking after signs and wonders. We must be very careful what our faith is built on and if we are even in the faith. The Lord knows those who are His by where their hearts are. There are many who are already under the power of an antichrist even in the church.

The heart is what God is after. A wicked heart sees what they can get from God for their own benefit and to please their flesh, and that's why they are the perfect candidates for Satan and his servants, who offer these things to capture and blind hearts. Paul says,

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away (defection from faith and God's authority; apostasy) comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12

63. In These Last Days Spoken to Us by His Son

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds." Hebrews 1:1-2

If you need to run to a prophet to seek direction for your life, be careful, for you may be guilty of idolatry. Jesus died to remove the veil between man and God, and we can go boldly to the Father directly (*Hebrews 4:16*). God does not speak to "prophets" more than you. He is your father. If God wants to give you a prophetic word, he is able to, but we are not to be running around to prophets; we are in a new and better covenant.

If you don't learn to hear God's voice for yourself when life is "normal," you will be one of those susceptible to great deception in these days of many false prophets. Learn to love and be content with the word of God, prayer, and fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us how to pray: pray to the Father. He never ever told us to seek out prophets to hear God on our behalf, and neither did any of the apostles.

When Paul got a prophecy from Agabus in *Acts 21* about the danger awaiting him in Jerusalem, he had freedom on how to respond and did not listen to what his friends told him (*not to go to Jerusalem)*; instead, he went to Jerusalem and fulfilled God's mission to go to Rome. Paul was not led by prophets or mass hysteria based on fear, but by Jesus Christ.

And who is Jesus Christ? **The WORD OF GOD**.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." John 1:1-3

"For You have magnified Your word above all Your name." Psalm 138:2

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." Matthew 24:35

"Forever, O LORD, your word is settled in heaven." Psalm 119:89

"But He answered and said, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (not a man or prophet, meaning it must align with God's WORD because God speaks only by his word and can't contradict his word)."'" Matthew 4:4

64. Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit of God

"But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them." Isaiah 63:10

Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is a fellowship and not a dictatorship. He does not coerce; he convicts, teaches, guides, and leads. If a person continues to resist him and grieve him, he does eventually get quenched and leaves the person to their own devices and possible destruction if they don't earnestly repent. The Holy Spirit does not abide where he is not welcome nor share a temple with devils.

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30

"Do not quench (extinguish; put out) the Spirit." 1 Thessalonians 5:19

"And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God." 2 Corinthians 6:16

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps." Matthew 25:1-3

65. Abide in Him, and He Will Keep You

"And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, TO PRESENT YOU HOLY, AND BLAMELESS, AND ABOVE REPROACH in His sight—IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister." Colossians 1:21-23

The completion of our salvation is two-sided. There is Christ's part, and there is ours. Christ promises to keep His redeemed from falling and to present us blameless before the Father and to finish what He has begun in us. But this is not unconditional. We have a part to play. Our relationship with Christ is just that: a relationship. It takes two to tango. We have a marriage covenant with him, and just as the earthly one, the husband may love his wife perfectly, but if she is committing adultery, he will eventually divorce her because she is defiling and breaking their covenant.

Jesus does not love us by coercion, neither does he sanctify the unwilling, any more than an earthly husband will imprison his wife to keep her from adultery. We have freedom to choose our lovers and to bear the consequences. If we began in him, let us continue in him, and he will surely finish what he has started as well. It is a fellowship with the Holy Spirit and not a dictatorship.

Our part is to abide in Him, obey Him, continue in Him, follow Him, to not defile ourselves, to always confess and forsake any sin, and to love Him by keeping His commandments. If we do this, then he will do his part and keep us from falling, and he will continue to sanctify and cleanse us with his Word and finally present us before the Father blameless.

Without him we can do nothing. He works in us both to will and to do his good pleasure, but we have to obey him. Obedience is our choice.

"ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. IF ANYONE DOES NOT ABIDE IN ME, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned." John 15:4–6

"Therefore, consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, IF YOU CONTINUE in His goodness. OTHERWISE, you also will be cut off." Romans 11:22

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION with fear and trembling.” Philippians 2:12

"And now, little children, ABIDE IN HIM, that when He appears, we may have confidence and NOT BE ASHAMED before Him at His coming."1 John 2:28

"But Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are IF WE HOLD FAST the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end… For we have become partakers of Christ IF WE HOLD THE BEGINNING of our confidence STEADFAST TO THE END." Hebrews 3:14

"My sheep HEAR MY VOICE, and I know them, and they FOLLOW ME. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand." John 10:27-28

"But when a righteous man TURNS AWAY from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall NOT BE REMEMBERED; BECAUSE OF THE UNFAITHFULNESS of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? When a righteous man TURNS AWAY from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies." Ezekiel 18:24-26

66. Saved, Being Saved, and Will Be Saved

*"Therefore, consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness**,** IF YOU CONTINUE IN HIS GOODNESS. Otherwise, you also will be cut off." Romans 11:22*

We don't get to heaven because we said a sinner's prayer or got saved on a date long ago. We get to heaven by faithfully following the Lord Jesus in obedience till the end. A sinner's prayer is not a get-out-of-hell-free card. Salvation is a deliberate journey that has an end. We are saved, are being saved, and will be saved. Our salvation shall be completed when we receive the redemption of our bodies. Along the way it is possible to forfeit our salvation if we forfeit the author of it by continuing in sin, blasphemy, rebellion, and disobedience. Being born again is not assenting to a series of facts about Jesus Christ but submitting to his work on the cross and being regenerated by his Spirit.

"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." Romans 13:11

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12

*"But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the **hope** of salvation." 1 Thessalonians 5:8*

*"For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are **being** saved and among those who are perishing." 2 Corinthians 2:15*

*"Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, **we shall be** saved by His life." Romans 5:9–10*

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved." Matthew 24:13

*"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are **being** saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18*

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned." John 15:4–6

"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection

from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should embrace this point of view. And if you think differently about some issue, God will reveal this to you as well." Philippians 3:10-15

67. Saying 'Sorry' Is Not Repentance

"Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance." Matthew 3:8

The key to freedom and victory over any sin and bondage is true and thorough repentance. No shortcut. True repentance comes with restitution and willingness to take resulting consequences and obey NO MATTER WHAT. God is not interested in "sorry" but true repentance. Repentance is mourning, weeping, and grief over sin. True godly sorrow leads to repentance, not self-pity or remorse. True repentance, just like true faith, has works involved.

"...but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance." Acts 26:20

Worldly sorrow is internal with no corresponding actions, and so it brings death. It's self-centered. Godly sorrow is both internal and external; it acknowledges all wrong done to God, man, and self and has works of restitution involved; it brings life as a result. God delights in true repentance and will not fail to meet that humble soul with grace, mercy, and the light of his presence. He will deliver that soul from every yoke and bondage because it has walked in the light fully with no consideration for self. Self-dies in true repentance.

"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." 2 Corinthians 7:10

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, you will not despise." Psalm 51:17

68. Faith Does Not Nullify the Law; It Upholds It

"Do we, then, nullify (void) the law by this faith? Certainly not! Instead, we uphold (establish) the law." Romans 3:31

Christians who erroneously believe they are not supposed to keep the commandments of God and have falsely been taught that God's holy law was nailed to the cross place themselves in grave danger of not being allowed access into the new Jerusalem and having no part in the tree of life. Only those who obey God will have part in his eternal kingdom. He is a great king who MUST be obeyed.

“But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow, but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King,” Says the LORD of hosts, “And My name is to be feared among the nations.” Malachi 1:14

Those who break God's laws are transgressors. Transgressors cannot inherit God's kingdom. Jesus died to justify us and give us his grace and his Spirit, who enables us to live holy and keep his commandments. If we despise God's commandments and claim they were abolished, we are despising God's own words, which will never return to Him void and which will judge us in the last day (*John 12:48-49*). Grace is an empowerment not to sin (*Titus 2:11-14*).

Jesus came to bring the Father many more sons who are like him, and he obeyed his father and kept his commandment (*Hebrews 2:10*). It's not by might or power, but by the Spirit of God (*Zechariah 4:6)*.

"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14

"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them." Matthew 5:17

69. True Freedom Is the Ability to Obey God

"And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." Romans 6:18

True liberty is the freedom and ability to OBEY GOD. If we cannot or will not obey God, we are not free but slaves to another master. Christians are called to be slaves of God and his righteousness. Anything that keeps us from obeying God is our master, and we are in bondage. Whether it is sin, church traditions, family, desire to be liked by people, belief systems, theology, church membership, friendships, our own desires and self-will, jobs, or whatever it is.

Anything that hinders us from obeying God is an idol and a slave master separating us from God. When we are willing to lose anything and anyone, including membership to any organization, tradition, friendship, or clique, to obey God, then and only then are we truly free. God's free man is free from anything that separates him from obeying God. Are you truly free?

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1

"For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise, he who is called while free is Christ's slave." Corinthians 7:22

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." John 8:34-36

"You have disregarded the commandment of God to keep the tradition of men." Mark 7:8

70. Belief Beyond Demons

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" James 2:19

Our belief must exceed that of demons. Faith without works of obedience is dead. Believing a set of facts about Jesus is not salvation. Believing he is the son of God and died on the cross for sins is not salvation. That belief must translate into the heart to bring forth true repentance and surrender. Satan knows Jesus is the son of God more than any human being because he lived in heaven with Jesus. He is not an atheist. He knows who Jesus is and never doubts that, and yet he will never be saved because his belief and knowledge are not translated into active obedient faith. Unless our faith exceeds that of demons, we are not saved. God is not interested in mental assent but heart faith.

71. True Revival Is Known by Its Fruit

There is no "*revival*" where there is no gospel, repentance, and turning away from sin preached. What exactly is being revived when these are absent? Only dead men and sleeping men are revived (quickened; made alive) by waking them from slumber and death, and this only happens by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is a gospel of salvation and repentance, which leads to HOLINESS and the fear of God. Revival does not have to be corporate; individuals can experience revival too when all these are present.

The first revival that happened after Jesus rose from the dead is recorded in *Acts 2*. The Holy Spirit fell, and men heard the **preaching of the true gospel** of Jesus, which **convicted them of sin.** They were **CUT to the heart,** and they cried out, *"Men and brethren, what must we do?"* And Peter proceeded to tell them to **repent** and be **baptized for remission of sins** and to **flee from the corrupt generation.** In this revival the **fear of God came upon all,** the church and unbelievers both. This is what happens during a genuine revival: there is repentance, salvation, and the fruit of holiness and a resulting fear of God.

"Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." "Now when they heard this, THEY WERE CUT to THE HEART, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, WHAT SHALL WE DO?" "Then Peter said to them, "REPENT, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the REMISSION OF SINS; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "BE SAVED FROM THIS PERVERSE GENERATION." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then FEAR CAME UPON EVERY SOUL, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles." Acts 2:36-43

72. Trampling Jesus Underfoot

"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has TRAMPLED THE SON OF GOD UNDERFOOT, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:26-31

Many Christians justify unrepentant lifestyles and living in sin by claiming to be under grace and therefore no longer under the law or judgment. To them the death of Jesus was a mere symbolic transaction but had no power to deliver them from sin. As long as they believe Jesus is the Messiah, they believe that they can do whatever they want and make it to heaven. This is a great deception.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews makes it clear that those who sin willfully after being born again are trampling Jesus underfoot, treating his shed blood as an unholy, common thing (basically implying powerless), and insulting the Spirit of grace. This is a great condemnation. Living this way is crucifying Jesus all over again (*Hebrews 6:6)*, and God will take vengeance on and judge those who live this way and treat his son's sacrifice this way.

It is better to be a non-believer who is a slave to sin than to be born again and choose to live in sin willfully by presuming on God's grace and mercy. God has a stricter judgment on the latter because to whom much is given, much is expected.

The blood of Jesus was shed to cleanse us from dead works *(the works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:19-21),* so that we can serve the living God. God is not served with and in sin but in righteousness (*Romans 6:16*).

If the blood of Jesus was not efficacious enough to cleanse us from sin and the power of sin, that's like saying his blood was no better than the blood of bulls and goats under the old covenant. The blood of Jesus has the power to cleanse our conscience from dead works so that we now live lives of holiness, obeying the law of God, which he has written in our minds and put in our hearts.

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the

powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."

Hebrews 6:4-6"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Hebrews 9:14

"For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

73. Peddlers of the Word of God

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." 2 Corinthians 4:5

What gospel are we believing?

Many stand to preach, but they preach themselves, their wives, their cars, their houses, their jobs, their money their achievements, their holidays, their great ministries, and so forth. But neither Jesus nor the apostles preached themselves but the gospel of the kingdom. The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The gospel is about God's kingdom of righteousness invading our lives with him as sovereign.

We see no mention in the gospels or epistles of what the apostles wore, ate, or rode on or what kind of houses they lived in, not even mention of their wives and children. They went everywhere preaching Christ the savior and not themselves. Yet these days those who peddle the gospel for profit fill ears with 'gospels' about their material wealth, their wives and husbands, their achievements, and so forth. For them, the gospel is a means of material gain.

The "gospel" of the flesh appeals to those in the flesh whose end is destruction because such a gospel cannot save. Their hopes and rewards end in this world. But the gospel of Jesus Christ appeals to those in the Spirit who are being saved, whose end is everlasting life, and whose glory is not in the flesh.

"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect." 1 Corinthians 1:17

"For we are not like so many others, who peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as men sent from God." 2 Corinthians 2:17

"If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself." 1 Timothy 6:3-5

74. Him We Preach

"Christ in you, the hope of glory. HIM WE PREACH, WARNING EVERY MAN and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." Colossians 1:27-28

It is the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that opens the eyes of sinners to their need of the Savior. All men are born blind and dead and cannot hear, see, or understand the gospel unless the Holy Spirit convicts them and opens their eyes through the hearing of the gospel. The gospel is Jesus Christ, the light of the world, and him having been crucified as God as an offering for sin and risen again on the third day, condemning sin in the flesh and providing redemption for sinners. He alone opens the eyes of the blind to see themselves and the savior.

The gospel message is not God having a plan for our lives, God promising us happiness, God blessing us, God accepting us as we are, or God loving us. The gospel is Christ Jesus and his death, burial, and resurrection for sinners on account of sin. And the sinners need repentance to receive this grace by faith.

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

"'...the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should REPENT, TURN TO GOD, and DO WORKS BEFITTING REPENTANCE." Acts 26:17-20

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...so we preach and so you believed." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 11

"But we preach Christ crucified (having been crucified for the sins of the people, as the only redeemer of lost people), to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness." 1 Corinthians 1:23

"Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12

75. Have You Met Him?

"Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." John 1:45

It is impossible to meet with the living Lord Jesus and remain the same. Jesus doesn't just renovate sinners; he regenerates them. He doesn't just upgrade sinners; he overhauls them. He doesn't just give sinners a better life; he gives them new birth. When a man meets Jesus, you can tell; it's not something hidden, subtle, or questionable. It's as clear as day. It's the difference between a corpse and a living being. There was no mistaking that Lazarus had been dead and now was alive. That's what Jesus does to the man who is BORN AGAIN. If it is not visible, then the person was never born again. If the person is still the same and up to his old tricks, he never got born again.

Have you met HIM? Or did you meet a man of God, a religion, a prophet, or a church? Have you met Jesus of Nazareth?

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13

76. Antinomianism: Grace Is Not a License for Sin

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" Romans 6:1-3

There are Christians who actually believe that Jesus dying on the cross for sins means they are now free to sin as long as they believe in him. That there will be no consequences for their sins because Jesus paid for their past, present, and future sins, and he "loves them" too much to condemn them. They believe Christians cannot lose their salvation no matter how much they sin.

This heresy (*antinomianism*) is nothing new and has existed since the days of the early church. It is a dangerous doctrine that leads to hell. These people twist Paul's teachings to mean licentiousness, which Paul himself argues against all over the book of Romans because he was being accused of teaching against God's law. They misunderstand and twist Paul's teachings of grace to their own damnation.

"And why not say, 'Let us do evil that good may come'—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just." Romans 3:8

It will be a pity for such Christians who think sin doesn't matter and Jesus will wave a magic wand and ignore their sins on judgment day. They crucify Jesus over and over again and have no fear of God or the dear and brutal price Jesus paid for sin on the cross. They think God has changed and is no longer holy or think holiness is an imputed label rather than a lifestyle. They are in for a rude awakening.

The only way someone can actually believe God overlooks Christians' sins and there are no consequences is if they were never born again to begin with or have idols in their hearts. Idolatry and secret sin always make room for self-deception. The Bible from Genesis to Revelations reveals the holiness of God and his hatred for sin and the judgment that awaits sinners and hypocrites. The latter receiving a worse judgment because they knew the truth but chose not to obey it.

"For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude 1:4

"Antinomianism is a theological viewpoint, originating from the Greek words anti (against) and nomos (law), that asserts believers are not bound by religious or moral laws due to their salvation through grace in Christ. This belief can lead to a "license to sin," the idea that one can live without moral constraints because their faith in Jesus provides freedom from any obligation to obey God's law." Google

77. He Who Endures to the End Shall Be Saved

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved." Matthew 24:13

Christians who think they will just live a careless, lukewarm life and then be raptured out of here and escape problems are in for a rude awakening. He who endures to the end shall be saved. Through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom of God. If our fathers were martyred and killed for the faith, what makes us think we are so special? Jesus has not promised anyone escape from suffering and tribulation. Our faith must be tested in fire to be found genuine.

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12

"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12

"That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:7

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer." 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5

78. If We Love Him, We will Keep His Commandments

"If you love me, keep my commandments." *John 14:15*

Jesus did not die on the cross for sinners to liberate us from the power of sin so that we could continue sinning. Any teaching that excuses or justifies sin or teaches a variation of "no one's perfect, we can't stop sinning, no one can obey God," etc., is not from God but Satan. God does not contradict or fight against himself. God is not a sinner and can never excuse or accept sin. It is impossible because he is holy. He is not a man that he should lie and does not change his mind. He has told us plainly, *"Be ye holy for I am holy (1 Peter 1:16)," "Without holiness no man shall see God (Hebrews 12:14)," and "No unclean will ever enter it (heaven) (Revelation 21:27).*" Jesus told us, *"Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48*). God would not ask us what is impossible.

Jesus died to make it possible for us to keep the law of God by the power of his Spirit in us and the new birth we have in him. Jesus didn't die to give us an excuse to sin. He said if we love him, we will keep his commandments. Our test of loving God is in obedience. It takes submission to the Lordship of Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit to obey God. It is not something we can do in our own flesh, and that's why it takes submission. But those who don't love Jesus twist his word to excuse and justify sin in the name of grace to their own destruction.

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:2-8

79. The Commandment Is Holy and Just and Good

"Therefore, the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good." Romans 7:12

The law of God is not to oppress us but to give us life, peace, joy, and security. The devil, that great deceiver, always slanders God's law to make it look like a burden and a happiness killer, but it is quite the opposite. Sin is the killer and the deception. It seems good (just as it did to Eve in the beginning), but its end is death, doom, and damnation. When sin is fully grown, it leads to death. The sting of death is sin. The sins a man enjoys now will be his tormentors in hell, where sin's true colors shall be revealed. The law of God is perfect. It is for our good. The man who has tested God by keeping his commandments realizes this. There is no greater joy than in keeping God's holy commands because they are just, holy, and good and bring true all-round prosperity without sorrow.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." 1 John 5:3

"Yet they acted proudly and did not heed Your commandments but sinned against Your judgments, 'which if a man does, he shall live by them.' And they shrugged their shoulders, stiffened their necks, and would not hear." Nehemiah 9:29

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear and are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land that you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." Deuteronomy 30:15-20

80. True and False Conversion

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" James 2:19

The new birth in Christ is a new birth. If someone claims to be born again of the SPIRIT OF GOD and SEED of God and is still lying, stealing, fornicating, committing adultery, is a drunkard, clubs, flirts, bribes, is corrupt, hateful, worldly, sins without any conscience or conviction, and makes excuses for sin, this person is not born again. They may have had some religious experience or assented mentally to a set of facts about God and Jesus, but they have not received the new birth. Even the demons believe in one God and that Jesus is the Son of God and tremble, but they are not born again. When God gives you new birth, it is evident. You are a new creation; the old man is gone, old things have passed away, and new things have come.

There is false conversion, which is preached in many places, where salvation is repeating a sinner's prayer only. But without any conviction of sin and godly sorrow, which the Holy Spirit produces in the sinner to bring them to salvation, and without any change in nature and deeds. When a man is truly born again, there is within them an utter awareness of their sinfulness and utter depravity, and hopelessness without God. The sinner cries out to God from the heart out of this conviction, just as blind Bartimaeus cried, "*Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me.*" Just as physical birth is a distinct experience with evidence, the new birth in Christ is a distinct experience with evidence of change in nature in the person by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. It is not theory, and it is not just believing a set of facts or doctrines. It is a spiritual rebirth.

“Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:5-7

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Romans 6:1-4

81. True Repentance: A Conscience Void of Offense Before God and Men!

"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God and toward men." Acts 24:16

True repentance is not just making things right with God, but making things right with those you have wronged! There is a false repentance propagated by many in the body of Christ: that you can just hurt people, abuse people (spiritually, emotionally, and sexually), and defraud people, and then all you have to do is tell God sorry and you're good. That is incomplete repentance, which God CANNOT accept (except where it is completely impossible to do this). If you have violated people, you must go to the same people and humble yourself and repent for what you have done. (*See Zacchaeus's repentance in Luke 19:1-10*). God will not absolve you of guilt by repenting to him alone while leaving people wounded and hurt. That is cowardice and pride. God is a God of restoration and love. He cares about those who have been hurt. That's why Jesus said to first be reconciled to your brother before bringing your gift to God's altar (*Matthew 5:23-26)*.

"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary QUICKLY, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny." Matthew 5:23-26

You cannot love God whom you have not seen if you cannot love your brother whom you see (*1 John 4:20*). You can't walk all over people and then claim to have repented to God. That is pride and self-deception. Many people will be shocked to find themselves unjustified by God on judgment day because they refused to make peace with those they had offended because they were too proud. Jesus identifies himself with his people. What you do to the LEAST of his brothers and sisters you do to HIM (*Matthew 25:40)*. When you hurt people, you hurt God. To make peace, you must go to both God and those you have hurt in true repentance, not half repentance.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

"Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14

82. Search Me, O God

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:36

It is prudent to always ask the Lord to show us if there is anything in us that would hinder us from entering his kingdom and make things right. We should not be presumptuous and proud because the heart is deceitful above all things. If we ask, he is faithful and just to show us. Heaven is prepared for. We should never take it for granted. Once saved is not always saved. David prayed, *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24*

"But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." Revelation 21:27

"Therefore, 'Come out from among them and be separate,' says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." 2 Corinthians 6:17

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21

"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day on which your Lord will come. But understand this: If the homeowner had known in which watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. For this reason, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect." Matthew 24:42-44

83. The Journey to Heaven Is a Solitary One

"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak." John 12:48-49

The journey to Heaven is a race to endure, and the road is narrow. It is not a road to enter two by two but alone. You'll not enter with your church members as a group but alone. You won't enter with your pastor but alone. Never compare your walk with anyone because you don't know where they are heading. Not all have faith. Many in the church are goats there to mislead many.

Fix your eyes on Jesus and stay on the narrow road to heaven. The highway is holiness. The path is ancient. God has not changed. His word is the only truth. There is no committee at the gate of heaven. Only Jesus and the word of God. There will be no debates or arguing at that gate and arguing over words and doctrines, only *"it is written."* Jesus told us, *"If you love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15)."* His words will judge us.

84. Grow in the Knowledge of God

“Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:10

It is impossible to understand God fully without studying the old covenant. To grow in the full knowledge of God, a believer must devote themselves to the entire study of the scriptures from the beginning, from Genesis to Revelation. God's revelation to man is progressive, culminating in Christ but beginning in the garden of Eden. Study to show yourself approved, and you will grow in the fear of God, which brings wisdom. The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. To know God is to fear him. God is a person, and he has revealed himself through his dealings with men from Adam and through the Jewish race from his covenant with his friend Abraham.

You cannot know God's nature without studying his dealings with the Jews; you will have a partial knowledge of God, which is dangerous. It is only in understanding history that we can fully appreciate Christ, His salvation, and the mystery of the plan of salvation. All the scriptures point to Jesus. I challenge you to make it your life ambition to study God's word over and over again because then you will become wise unto salvation and stable in your faith, less prone to error, and able to teach others. You don't need mediators to know God; the veil was rent. God reveals himself to those who seek him and desire to know him more. Don't die a spiritual baby always running around seeking someone to give you a word; grow! Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." 1 John 2:27

"And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food." Hebrews 5:12

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Proverbs 8:17

"So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." Ephesians 4:14

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10

85. Perfecting Holiness in the Fear of God

"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, PERFECTING HOLINESS in the FEAR of GOD." 2 Corinthians 7:1

Living in the fear of God is not a fluke. It is something one must pursue, seek after, and ask for. It is the fear of God that leads to wisdom, including wisdom on how to walk in holiness. Holiness is not a fluke. It is not something imposed or imputed upon us.

The righteousness we receive on salvation is justification. It is reconciliation with God and a new nature. Jesus became our righteousness and holiness by giving us his life, but we must continue in it by walking in it and producing fruit that reflects it. We have our part to play.

Holiness is something we must pursue and strive after by daily surrender to God, spiritual practice and diligence. God cannot force us to be holy, but He expects us to be holy. He says, *"Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16)*. Holiness is a pursuit, and it is a lifestyle. It is something that must be seen in our conduct. It is the fear of God that helps us perfect holiness.

"Follow (pursue) peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

"Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always CONTINUE IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD." Proverbs 23:17

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10

"Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name." Psalm 86:11

"Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" Deuteronomy 5:29

86. The Road to Hell Is Paved with Good Intentions

"Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:40-41

The night Jesus was betrayed, the disciples could not watch in prayer for an hour, and he warned them to watch and pray lest they fall into temptation. That very night Peter denied Jesus because his flesh overcame his spirit. All his good intentions flew out the window because of lack of prayer. Intentions alone are not enough to keep us in the hour of temptation. Only prayer can because in prayer we draw on God's supernatural strength. A saying goes, "*The road to hell is paved with good intentions*." Intention is not enough because the flesh is not strong enough to overcome temptation. Prayer subdues the flesh and strengthens the spirit man.

87. Daily Discipline Wins the War

"And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him." Judges 16:20

The devil is overcome in daily discipline and devotion. Victory is won in daily disciplines and habits. Preparation for a day of trouble should begin in the time of rest and safety. A soldier prepares for battle long before battle by daily exercise. Don't neglect daily disciplines; they make a man. Hurrying to overcome the devil in the middle of a crisis seldom works, and you will be overcome.

Read your Bible, pray every day, fast often, live a holy life, repent and forgive daily, love others, live peacefully, don't be a hypocrite, give alms often, seek God's kingdom, shine your light, and be heavenly minded daily, avoid falsehood, and obey God. That's how you overcome the enemy, by submitting to God in the spiritual disciplines our Lord taught us in the Sermon on the Mount.

Delilah overcame Samson by wearing him down daily with her seductions to let his guard down and to rob him of his spiritual strength. And one day, without expecting it, the mighty Samson was overcome.

"A small but always persistent discipline is a great force; for a soft drop falling persistently, hollows out hard rock." Isaac of Nineveh

88. Jesus Has the Keys of Hell and of Death

"I am he that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18

Jesus alone has the KEYS of death and hell. He is the only hope for escape from the second death and hell.

He is the ONLY WAY to the Father (God); there aren't many ways to God. He is the only TRUTH; truth is not relative.

He is THE LIFE, and he is ETERNAL LIFE; there is no eternal life without Jesus.

He alone has the KEYS of death and gives life to those who come to him; they shall never partake of the second death, which is eternal.

He alone has the KEYS of hell to rescue those who come to him from eternal damnation.

Jesus is exclusive, and there is no hope without him. Turn to Him and live!

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

"This is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life." 1 John 5:11-12

89. Sin Opens the Door to the Devil and Bondage

“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you refuse to do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires you, but you must master it.” Genesis 4:7

Sin gives the devil legal rights over the one who is living in sin. Sin is the work of the devil. He was the first sinner and transgressor and has been sinning from the beginning. Therefore, when we sin, we give the devil a foothold and legal right to enter our lives and bring oppression and accusations before God. Many people's lives are in bondage because they have what belongs to the devil and are doing his work (sin). We cannot serve both sin and God. God has nothing to do with sin. He sent Jesus to destroy the works of the devil, chief of which is sin. The only way God can adequately protect us is if we obey him, walk in righteousness, and make sure to confess and repent of all sin immediately when we sin but not to sin deliberately or willfully. If we do this, the enemy cannot touch us; Jesus will protect us since we have nothing of the devil in us. Righteousness is a key weapon of spiritual warfare.

The devil never sleeps and is always looking for a foothold and access to accuse us before God. We must likewise be sober and vigilant and deny him access through holiness. Those who think the blood of Jesus covers them magically from willful sin are only deceiving themselves and are the best property of the devil. Christ is not a minister of sin.

"We know that anyone born of God does not keep on sinning; the One who was born of God (Jesus) protects him, and the evil one cannot touch him." 1 John 5:18

"And give no opportunity (foothold) to the devil." Ephesians 4:27

"Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother." 1 John 3:8-10

"I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me." John 14:30

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

90. The Children of God and the Children of the Devil

"Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. BY THIS it is EVIDENT WHO ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND who are THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother." 1 John 3:8-10

God has his children, and Satan has his. What distinguishes them is the fruit they produce. The child of a snake is a snake. It cannot be a sheep. The children of God are saints. The children of the devil are sinners. Born-again believers are not sinners anymore. They are saints. They may commit sin but not by nature or default, and they grow in perfection. Their nature has been regenerated and is being perfected daily. The children of God naturally strive and wish to do what their father does, not what the devil does.

Sin has nothing to do with God. He is flawless and perfect. The newborn child of God may find themselves sinning, but it will never be something they do in a relaxed state. Because the Spirit and seed of God are in them, their sin will grieve them just as it grieves the Holy Spirit since it is a foreign nature, and they will seek freedom from it. The children of the devil never do that; they are at home in sin and make excuses for sin. The core difference is nature.

"Is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!" Galatians 2:17

91. Hell Has Enlarged Herself

"Therefore, hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it." Isaiah 5:14

For a person to think that God is too loving to send them to hell is an act of great self-delusion and self-deception. God's love was demonstrated on the cross by sending his only begotten Son to die as a sacrificial lamb for sinners. Jesus Christ bore the sins of the whole world on his body. He is the love of God and divine justice manifested. The wrath of God over sin was poured out on him whom God loved. To reject Jesus and his Lordship, which is God's great salvation, is an act of rebellion and is to reject God's love. There is no love of God apart from the cross; there is no way to God without Jesus Christ. Those who try to create their own paths to God will find all doors shut. Jesus is the only door. He is the one who shuts and no man can open, and opens and no man can shut (*Revelation 3:7*).

Hell enlarges itself daily (*Isaiah 5:14*) because souls are falling into it daily. God is not in love with sinners; he is angry at the wicked every day (*Psalm 7:11*). No king is in love with treasonous citizens. The majority of mankind and even nations shall end up in hell according to God's Word, because human beings are wicked and evil. That we are saved is an act of great mercy and love on God's part. None of us deserve heaven. God chose to save us by sending his Son to save us. If we reject Jesus's death for us and refuse to obey him, let us not be under any deception that God is too loving to condemn. Hell awaits all rebels.

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psalm 9:17

"God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day." Psalm 7:11

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28

...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed." 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

92. The Blessed Hope of the True Christian

"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." 2 Peter 3:13

God's kingdom is a kingdom of righteousness and justice. He shall reign forever and ever. There shall be no wicked, lawless, or rebellious people in his eternal kingdom. Every human is given a choice while alive of whom to follow. God gives us absolute free will to choose whom we will serve. God has his children, and Satan has his. Jesus himself said so in various parables, and he called them the tares, goats, or children of the wicked one (*Matthew 13:24-30, Matthew 25:31-46)*.

On the final day he will make a clear separation. Our lives, our actions, our words, our character, our secret deeds and thoughts, and the fruit of our lives are what prove who our true master is, not church attendance or empty professions. A tree is known by its fruit. The children of God, the bride of Jesus, are known by her deeds of righteousness, not hypocrisy. The Lord Jesus is coming to establish his everlasting kingdom. That is the blessed hope of every true believer, the promise of the new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness shall dwell forever. This evil world is not our home.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:13-14

"Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness." Proverbs 25:5

"Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous." Psalm 1:5

93. Salvation Is Not Repeating a “Sinner’s Prayer”

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10

Salvation is not repeating a "sinner's prayer" after a preacher; it is repentance, a change of heart, and trust in the sacrifice of Jesus. There is no magic formula or magic words for salvation; it is a heart change, it is faith, it is absolute trust in the blood of Jesus and nothing else. Anyone can say a sinner's prayer. It means absolutely nothing repeating words that the heart and entire being have not assented to.

Salvation is a gift of God. It is a work of the Holy Spirit, who alone can convict and show man his utter depravity and lead him to cry out for mercy from Jesus Christ. There are no sinners’ prayers used by Jesus or the apostles. Sinners themselves cried out of conviction for the Lord to save, help, and have mercy. Salvation is from the heart, and the mouth confesses what the heart has accepted and believed. Key to that is a man realizing he is a hopeless sinner and asking for salvation from the only one who is salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ.

94. Narrow Way to Heaven; Wide Road to Hell

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14

No one ends up in heaven by accident or happenstance. Heaven is prepared for. It is a journey taken carefully and deliberately every day by staying on the narrow road. On the contrary, you don't have to do anything to go to hell; you just need to continue living the normal human life of sin with no room for Jesus. This is why it is a wide road; anything goes. Hell is real, and heaven is real. What road are you on? Needs honest self-examination. Jesus is the narrow road. Until a man realizes he is a sinner in desperate need of a savior, he is on the wide road to hell and will arrive there sooner or later.

95. There Are No Parties in Hell

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever...And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:10, 15

Hell is a terrible place not only because of the eternal fire, torment, and absence of all good, but also because of the company. Those who reject Jesus' salvation and hypocritical Christians will all end up in hell with pedophiles, kidnappers, murderers, rapists, evil elites, many kings and celebrities, sorcerers, devil worshippers, sodomites, robbers, and the devil and his demons for all eternity. And it will be no party, and there will be no kings or friendships there.

Men's favorite celebrities or politicians will not be able to entertain or comfort them in hell. Everyone will be in torment by the flames and their own memories, regretting every time they mocked and rejected Jesus and thought themselves too cool, smart, and enlightened for God.

From God's view, all sin is rebellion against him. Some sins are worse than others in their nature and damage, but all sin leads to hell, and all sinners go to hell. Being a "*good*" person by human standards is not what gets us to heaven. To try to earn heaven by good works while rejecting Jesus is pride, self-righteousness, and rebellion. We are all born sinners and live daily in rebellion against God because of the sinful nature in us.

Only those who accept God's sacrifice of Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, for their sins are reconciled with God and can be empowered by His Spirit dwelling in them to please God. Only the truly born again can enter heaven because it is only these that God recognizes as his children and heirs. One way: Jesus and obedience to him alone, who is king of kings.

May the Lord have mercy on our souls.

96. Friday: The Pagan High Day of the Week

"Promiscuity (harlotry, whoredom, fornication), wine, and new wine (excess of drinking, immoderacy), which take away the heart (mind, understanding, will, the whole inner life of man) ... For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore... So, a people without understanding (discernment) will come to ruin... A whirlwind will sweep them away, and their sacrifices will bring them shame." Hosea 4:11, 12, 14, 19

Friday may well be called the pagan high day of the week. Just as Israel prostituted herself in every high place with idols and perversion, many lend themselves to both spiritual and moral prostitution and idolatry on Fridays. Fornication is at a high peak; adultery is high as men and women drink strong drink and forget that they are married; children are conceived without plan or forethought out of fornication, and as a result of all this wickedness, many children are aborted and murdered; many contract strange diseases in strange beds; monies are lost; fatal deals are entered into; souls are lost; and lives perish in unnecessary road accidents and fights.

God sees it all, and on Fridays, men attract God's curses and judgment on themselves, yet they say, "*God does not see; God loves me*." Others will try to wash their blood and corruption away by offering large sums and acting pious on Sunday, but God cannot be blinded or bought by bribes, for he is a just God. What a man sows, he shall reap, and there is no escape. He that sows to the wind shall reap the whirlwind.

Many a Friday, men and women have sealed their fates to eternal damnation in the name of secret pleasures.

"Yet they say, "The Lord does not see, nor does the God of Jacob understand." Understand, you senseless among the people; and you fool, when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge? The Lord knows the thoughts of man, "That they are futile." Psalms 94:7-11

"The wicked say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?" Psalm 73:11

"We know that we are of God, and that the whole world is under the power of the evil one." 1 John 5:19

97. Imitators of God

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as beloved children." Ephesians 5:1

Our standard is not our fellow men, but the Lord Jesus Christ. He set a very high standard for us of what the Christian life should be like. And so, we sell ourselves short if our "idols" and standards are men because even the best of men are fallible.

In his wisdom, the apostle Paul said in light of this, "*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*" There is a qualification he put there: "*as*." This means that IF he was not following Christ in any way, he was not to be imitated.

Our eyes should ever be fixed on the Lord Jesus so that even in imitating men, we imitate Christ in them. When we do this, we shall discern when not to imitate anyone and also permit ourselves to test all things so that we don't follow people blindly.

Jesus is our example and pattern. He is the benchmark. We are HIS disciples, not disciples of men.

"It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master." Matthew 10:25

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher." Luke 6:40

"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." 1 John 2:6

98. What Is Your Soul Worth?

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36

The man who loves his soul will not trifle with it like Esau did with his birthright. Afterwards, when Esau sought the blessing, there was no chance for repentance. God promises us TODAY for our salvation. Tomorrow is never guaranteed. Procrastination on matters of eternity is folly.

The wise man prepares for the rainy day NOW, and not when the rain starts falling. The foolish man despises his soul and trades it for a few temporary and momentary pleasures.

The wise man is willing to deny himself now and profit later. He sees ahead and sees the prize at the end of the race. The foolish man's eyes are only on the present moment and quick gains while he gambles with the real treasure, his very own soul.

The wise man has found the pearl of great price and has sold all he has for it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it." Matthew 13:45-46

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears." Hebrews 12:14-17

99. Are You on the Narrow Way or the Wide Way?

"The way of life is above to the wise (leads upward), that he may depart from hell beneath." Proverbs 15:24

A man's final destination of eternity in heaven or hell is determined while he is alive.

Every day by the choices we make, we are on one of two paths, the broad way or the narrow way.

The beginning of entering the path of life is salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. But we must stay on that road each day by choosing to be wise. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. It is the fear of God that gives us wisdom to stay on the upward narrow way that leads to life.

The person who rejects wisdom (Jesus and his Word) is on the broad way to hell. A man dies as he lived. The road we are on will determine our eventual destination.

No man will take the road to hell and magically appear in heaven. God has set before us two roads, and the decision is ours to make which to take.

100. If I Am a Father, Where Is My Honor?

“A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name." Malachi 1:6

If we claim God to be our Father, where is his honor in our lives, actions, words, conduct, activities, worship, speech, and secret lives? He is interested in and wants our hearts and not lip service. He looks in the heart because the heart determines the fruit of our lives.

"My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways." Proverbs 23:26

"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me." Matthew 15:8

"Therefore, the LORD God of Israel says: ‘I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.’ But now the LORD says: ‘Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed." 1 Samuel 2:30

“I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” Jeremiah 17:10

101. Our Destiny as Christians Is to Grow Up into Christ

"*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." Ephesians 4:15*

God's destiny for us as born-again believers is to grow up into Christ, to be like Him and reflect His nature and image. That's God's perfect will for us. His desire is not for us to be like other human beings or like the images we have in our minds, but to be like Jesus, who is the perfect God-man.

This is fulfilled in us as we surrender fully to the Holy Spirit, who is our teacher, guide, helper, and sanctifier. The Holy Spirit teaches us God's word and enables us to obey God and be sanctified, which is God's will for us. This is what Jesus himself did. We cannot be like Christ without absolute obedience to the Father.

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." 1 Thessalonians 4:3

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:2

"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." Colossians 1:28

"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Romans 13:14

"And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth." John 17:19

"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17

"For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 2:10

102. Sin Loves Company, but Judgment Is an Individual Affair

"When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was filled with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood," he said. "What is that to us?" they replied. "You bear the responsibility (see to it yourself/that's your problem)." So Judas threw the silver into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself." Matthew 27:3-5

People will encourage you in sin, but when you face the consequences, you'll be alone.

When Judas decided to betray Jesus, the Pharisees were very happy to side with him and pay him to betray the Son of God. They even sent a large multitude to accompany Judas in his wicked act when they went to arrest Jesus.

But later when Judas realized the gravity of what he had done and wanted to return the blood money, the Pharisees told him, "*What is that to us? See to it yourself*." In his remorse and guilt, he found himself alone. In his suicide, he was alone. In his judgment, Judas was alone. On judgment day, he shall be alone.

Sin is lonely business in the end. When people are sinning, they always have company. There will be people encouraging you, tempting you, prodding you on, and seemingly rewarding your sins. Misery loves company.

Everyone shall bear their own load at the end of the day. You may be enjoying sin with people now, and they may reward you and make you feel very woke and smart, but in hellfire, there will be no friends. On judgment day, when you stand before the great God Jesus Christ whom you have betrayed, there will be no buddies. Everyone shall be trembling over his own sin.

When it comes to saving your soul, you must be selfish. It is not a crowd matter. Carry your own burdens now while there is time to repent and bring them to the Lord for cleansing.

"For each one shall bear his own load." Galatians 6:5

"So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:12

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10

103. All Our Days Are Written in God's Book

"Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed (appointed, fashioned, ordained) for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!" Psalm 139:16-17

God has a book written down for each of us, with his will and plans for our lives. God does not create anything or anyone without a divine purpose according to his heavenly counsel and records. But those plans and books can only be fulfilled in Christ Jesus. If not, the enemy will hijack our lives and fulfill his own nefarious and wicked purposes to keep us away from God's will for us, which is good in Christ Jesus. Without Jesus our lives are worthless.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; Before you were born, I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

"Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass." Job 14:5

"Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength." Proverbs 8:14

104. Living Sacrifices, Holy and Acceptable to God

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by (because of, for the sake of) the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable (rational, logical) service (service of worship)." Romans 12:1

The foremost sacrifice and act of service or worship God desires from us is ourselves. Any other sacrifice rendered while we withhold ourselves is not acceptable to him.

Because of the great mercies he has shown us, it follows that it is only logical and reasonable that we offer ourselves in return to Him—holy and acceptable.

He gave us his all, withholding nothing, and he desires all that we are in reciprocation, withholding nothing. It's only reasonable.

Our eyes, ears, mouth, nose, hands, feet, minds, intellect, emotions, abilities, and the members of our bodies—he desires all. We have been bought by the blood of Jesus. We no longer belong to ourselves.

"But they first gave themselves to the Lord and then to us by the will of God." 2 Corinthians 8:5

105. If We Are Ashamed of Him, He Shall Be Ashamed of Us in the End

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels." Luke 9:26

Imagine having a husband or wife who is ashamed of you and never acknowledges you in public, never defends you or talks about you, and is secretly ashamed of you. Jesus is a bridegroom. If we are ashamed of him on earth, he too shall be ashamed of us when we leave this world. Jesus is interested in a relationship with us. He did not die for rocks but for people he made in his image. He only knows those who are interested in loving him and obeying him. Relationship is not lip service; it is all-consuming. When we love someone, we just can't help but want to please them and make them known, and we fight off anything that would separate us from the one we love.

To follow Jesus, we must be willing to lose it all and be hated if necessary. Heaven is not for cowards. Jesus is not interested in secret lovers.

"But to the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death." Revelation 21:8

106. The Greatest Miracle

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

The greatest miracle is not God healing diseases, creating new limbs, or providing material needs. It is God taking vile, wicked sinners, recreating them and transforming them into saints, and giving them a new heart, a new spirit, and a new nature. This is the greatest, most mind-blowing miracle of all.

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them." Ezekiel 36:25-27

107. The Grace of God vs. The Grace of Demons

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, DENYING UNGODLINESS and WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, and GODLY IN THE PRESENT AGE, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." Titus 2:11-14

The depth of God's hatred for and aversion to sin is displayed by the great, dear, and personal price HE paid for it: the death of his perfect, sinless, beloved Son. To trifle with sin in the name of grace is to spit on God's great sacrifice of love and the blood of Jesus. No true believer would make light of sin in the name of grace. Such grace is the grace of demons. The grace of God sent Jesus on the cross to die a brutal death for sinners, and his grace justifies, regenerates, and sanctifies those sinners and teaches them to say NO to ungodliness and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, awaiting the appearing of the Lord Jesus at his advent to complete our salvation and perfection by the glorification of our bodies.

"And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in FEAR; knowing that you were NOT REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God." 1 Peter 1:17-21

108. This Very Night Your Soul Is Required of You

"And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:19-21

The rich man in Luke 12 thought he had years left to live and was making plans on how to enjoy his great wealth: to eat and drink and make merry. But God looked down upon him and called him a FOOL because he did not know that VERY night he would die and give account for his soul. Judging by how God addressed him, this man was heading to hell since he was not rich towards God. Yet his only concern was for enjoying life on earth while his soul was bankrupt!

Are you rich towards God? Are you ready to meet God? Like the rich man this night, your soul may be required of you! Make haste! Do not sleep the sleep of a fool. Do not live the life of a fool, only concerned with pleasing the body. Very soon, each of our souls shall be required of us by God Almighty! Let us find out how we can be rich toward God.

109. There Is No Fear of God Before Their Eyes

"There is no fear of God before their eyes." Romans 3:18

Because the fear of God is no longer present in the modern church:

Christians can live together without being married.

Pastors can sleep with and abuse women in the church.

Worship leaders and pastors can dress seductively on stage.

Believers commit fornication, lie, get drunk, and go to clubs.

Christians can get divorced and remarried.

Pastors can steal God's money and corrupt God's word for greed.

Christians practice open divination and witchcraft. and preach it from the pulpit.

Christians lie, cheat, and bribe at work and in public.

Christians are ashamed of God's word and want to be liked by the world.

Preachers are afraid to preach against sin and the coming of the Lord and warn against hell for fear of losing fame and church members.

Churches promise people false peace and comfort and heaven in their sins, placing their souls in danger of hell.

Yet we do all these things as professing Christians and somehow deceive ourselves that we shall enter heaven at the end of it all. This is the greatest self-deception of our day, and unless there is genuine repentance and return to holiness and the fear of God, many shall be very shocked to hear Jesus say to them, "*Depart from me, I never knew you, you workers of iniquity (lawlessness, transgression)." (Matthew 7:23)*

"If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay (as foreigners) on earth." 1 Peter 1:17

"Therefore, consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off." Romans 11:22

"For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word." Isaiah 66:2

110. Your Master on Earth Shall Be Your Master After Death

"Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness." Romans 6:16

The sins we love and excuse will be our tormentors in hell. Every man shall be with his master after death. We cannot serve sin and then expect to be with God after death. It doesn't work that way. Jesus said it plainly, "*No man can serve two masters*," and "*I wish you were either cold or hot*." Whatever we are serving (and no man can lie to himself) will be our master even after death. Every man is received by his master when his soul leaves his body—Satan (the father of sin) or God—and there is no respect of persons with God. The choice is ours.

May we be picked and ushered at death by the Lord's angels and not the demons. Each man's master shall pick him at death.

111. In Hell, He Lifted up His Eyes

"And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments." Luke 16:23

Today thousands have slipped into eternity, and if biblical statistics are true, the majority ended up in hell. Where will we go if we don't wake up tomorrow? Have you given your eternity a thought today? Do you care?

The rich man in *Luke 16* thought he was set for life with his great wealth, but the Bible tells us after his death he lifted up his eyes in hell. He closed his eyes one day and opened them in hell. I can't imagine his horror in realizing he wasted his life on what was not true wealth. He invested no time in securing his most important wealth: his soul.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36

112. God's Love Is Rooted in Truth

"Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." 1 Corinthians 13:6

Love and truth work together in God. There is no Biblical love without truth, since God is love but also the ultimate truth. To water down the gospel or God's standards in the name of "*love*" is not love at all but hate, because that kind of "*love*" is not concerned for the person's eternal soul but is rooted in willful self-deception. Worldly love is dangerous because it leads ultimately to separation from God. God can never compromise his standards for any of us, because he would then cease to be God. His attributes all work together in perfect harmony and concert. God's *love, truth, holiness, justice, faithfulness, righteousness, terribleness,* and *grace* cannot be separated from each other.

God is holy, and so he hates sin.

God is just, and so he must punish sin.

God is love, and so he provided a sacrifice for our sin that satisfied his justice.

God is gracious and merciful, and so he forgives those who humbly accept his sacrifice for sin.

God is righteous, and so he cannot accept those who reject his sacrifice.

God is faithful, and so he cannot lie or deny himself.

To expect God to violate Himself and bend to our sins is human wickedness. He is God, and we are not. He made us, and we did not make ourselves. God has done all he can do without denying himself and his holy nature to provide redemption for us so that we are without excuse, and he demonstrated this ULTIMATE love in the death of Jesus for our sins. Therefore, for anyone to say God is wicked because he won't accept our sins and rebellion is wicked, and exactly why humans need salvation.

113. Why God Allows Public Exposure of Sin

"But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD...And the LORD sent Nathan unto David...For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." 2 Samuel 11:27, 12:1, 12

When God exposes a man's sins publicly, it is not because he hates him, but because he loves him. God will always warn us privately of sin, and if we refuse, he will send others to warn us. If we refuse that, he will eventually expose us publicly in hopes of getting our attention. He does this because he is a good father and would rather embarrass you to your senses than lose you to hell. If someone refuses to repent even after public exposure, a point will be reached where they harden their heart completely.

Exposure is usually God's final attempt to get our stubborn attention. When someone is exposed for sin publicly, it is an act of great mercy. God allows exposure as discipline. The foolish person will blame the devil for the exposure and continue hiding his sin, but the wise man will come to his senses and repent.

God did the same thing to David because he loved him. He sent Nathan to him when David would not face his sin, but David repented and went on to enjoy a beautiful relationship with God.

Sin is not the end, but stubbornness can be if we refuse to repent and keep hiding and making excuses for our sins.

Public exposure does not have to be in the news, as is the case with well-known people. For the ordinary person, it can be public exposure to family members, friends, colleagues, church members, and so forth. By the time sin is made public by God, he has tried to warn you in private to no avail.

114. Are We Preparing Our Souls for Eternity with God or for Eternity in Hell?

"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?" Luke 11:20

We are all preparing, whether we know it or not, like it or not. And if we are not deliberately preparing for heaven, we are already by default preparing for damnation. Time waits for no man. Now is the day of salvation, beloved. Do not be like the rich man in *Luke 11* in the Bible who thought he had all the time to make merry and enjoy life, not knowing that very night his soul was to be required of him. God called him a fool. May we not be fools at last. Eternity beckons.

This day the end came for many, and many were not prepared, and they sealed their fate for all eternity. You and I have breath, and we have time this very second to make peace with God and all men. May we not squander the chances we are being offered in Jesus' name.

115. All Sin Is an Affront to a Holy God

"You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness." Habakkuk 1:13

There is no little sin before God. All sins alike are an offense to his holiness. The seriousness of sin can only be understood when we know WHO we have sinned against. Judging sin based on human estimation and opinion leads to thinking some sins are not that bad, but God sees all sins alike as acts of rebellion against him and his holiness.

He is a HOLY and perfect God. When we sin, we do the works of the devil, who was the first sinner and the one who led Adam and Eve to sin and rebel against God. God hates sin, and sin cannot abide with him. He took matters into his own hands to save us from the power of sin, something we could never do on our own because our very natures are corrupt.

Jesus died precisely because God hates sin, and sin cannot enter his holy presence. The great price of God's own blood should show us the seriousness of sin. Jesus died so we could be reconciled to God. No sin can enter heaven. Without holiness no man shall see God. Jesus alone can make us holy.

Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and accepting his atonement for our sin is the first step towards being freed from sin. He gives birth to us and gives us a new nature by his Spirit. We are then enabled and empowered to live a holy life and have the blood of Jesus to cleanse us of our sin if we do sin through confession and repentance.

Without Jesus, there is no way to be free from sin, and we remain under God's judgment. Our own righteousness or goodness is as filthy rags before a perfect God. But with him and through him, the door to freedom from the slavery of sin is opened to us.

All sin offends God. All sinners shall be separated from God no matter how good they think they are without the regeneration Jesus alone offers by his blood.

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life you inherited from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or spot." 1 Peter 1:18-19

116. The Terrible Trade-off of Sin

"See to it that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected. He could find no ground for repentance, though he sought the blessing with tears." Hebrews 12:16-17

Sin lures with cheap and false pleasures while hiding its real nature as a wicked slave master and deceiver. At death, that sin that seemed so sweet turns and reveals its true nature as it drags the soul to hell and torments it without rest day and night. There the soul finally sees the truth that that which it so loved was a hideous and terrible enemy masquerading as a giver of pleasure. But it is too late. The soul realizes in eternal agony that in its folly it traded its inheritance for a bowl of stew like Esau.

117. The Sin Not Repented of Is Not Forgiven

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." Proverbs 28:13

The sin that is not confessed and repented of is not forgiven

The passage of time does not erase sin; God does not forget. He only forgets what He forgives, and He only forgives what is acknowledged, confessed, and repented of. As Christians, we should be careful not to let sin fester without confession, because if this becomes a habit, our hearts will become hardened, and we will be under God's judgment. Sin should be repented of immediately after it is committed or remembered. This sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and his convictions will help us grow in sanctification. And every night we should review our day and confess our sins, make peace with those we may have offended, and sleep with a clear conscience, "*because you do not know when the master of the house will return—whether in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or in the morning (Mark 13:35)*."

We should not presume on God's grace and say he understands sin, or that too much time has gone by, and so think we don't need to confess. God records everything. Our sins are only forgiven when we bring them before his throne for the blood of Jesus to wash.

"Reconcile quickly with your adversary while you are still on the way to court. Otherwise, he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny." Matthew 5:25-26

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

"We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin. I have heard others, and I have heard myself, recounting cruelties and falsehoods committed in boyhood as if they were no concern of the present speaker's, and even with laughter. But mere time does nothing either to the fact or to the guilt of a sin. The guilt is washed out not by time but by repentance and the blood of Christ: if we have repented these early sins we should remember the price of our forgiveness and be humble." — C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain

118. True Holiness Produces Humility, Never Pride or Self-Righteousness

"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." Isaiah 6:5

The more holy a man becomes, the more aware he is of his sinfulness and the humbler he becomes. Holiness always grows in direct proportion to humility and vice versa. A holy man cannot be proud. The closer a man draws to God, the smaller he becomes in his own estimation because the clearer he sees himself. The man who still thinks he is something has yet to meet God. The men who walked close to God in the Bible knew they were nothing. Isaiah said, *"Woe is me! For I am undone."* Peter said, *"Depart from me; I am a sinful man."* Moses, once rash, became meek. Paul, once proud, became humble. Self-importance is a work of the flesh.

"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." Numbers 12:3

"For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself." Galatians 6:3

"When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" Luke 5:8

119. The Fear of God Leads to the Knowledge of God

"The secret of the LORD is with those who fear him; And he will show them his covenant (The LORD confides in those who fear Him, and reveals His covenant to them)." Psalm 25:14

Without the fear of God, it's not possible to truly know Him. There are things God will only reveal to those who fear Him. Those who know only His love but do not fear Him keep themselves from true knowledge of the Holy One. Yes, God is love, and he loves us, but if that is all we know, then we are limited in our knowledge of God and will therefore not be able to please or obey him. Knowing God's love is a beginning; we must SEEK to know him more, understand his nature and ways, and obey him. And as we do, his fear will arise in us, and then we will begin to know him. Jesus feared God, although he was likewise God. And God heard him and loved him because of his fear.

"Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:5-6

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever." Psalm 111:10

"And He said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding." Job 28:28

"Who (Jesus) in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared." Hebrews 5:7

120. Entrust Your Soul to No Man

"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the fruit you reap leads to holiness, and the outcome is eternal life." Romans 6:22

When it comes to our souls, we must never entrust them to any man but to the Lord Jesus and obedience to his WORD only. The popular, lukewarm gospel of our day that does not warn against sin or encourage repentance and holiness, and the fear of God cannot take anyone to heaven. We bear fruit depending on the tree we are branches of. If our branches are connected to Jesus, the true vine, our lives will bear fruit worthy of his gospel, which is righteousness and holiness. There are other false trees, naming Jesus and preaching Jesus with their lips but denying him by their deeds and compromises. It is not the quoting of scriptures or naming Jesus that validates a teaching, but the fidelity to scriptures and the fruit thereof. Worldliness, compromise, tolerance of sin, materialism, and cowardice are not a fruit of the true gospel.

121. You Must Be Born Again to Be a Child of God

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." John 1:12

All human beings are creatures of God, but not all are children of God. One only becomes a child of God by believing in the Lord Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross for our sins and the reconciliation he alone provides with the Father. Without Jesus, we are not children of God, however good we think we are. The Bible says those who are not in Christ are the children of the devil. This is by default because all are sinners without Christ. We do the work of the devil, which is sin, when we don't have Jesus as our savior, because only he can forgive sins and change our sinful nature into his nature.

Let us never deceive ourselves that God is our Father if we do not have a relationship with Jesus. Until God gives us birth through the birth canal of the cross and the torn flesh of Jesus and his death and resurrection, we are not his children.

The privilege of sonship is given to those who have turned away from their old life of sin and run to the Lord Jesus for salvation and new life. Are you a child of God? You can be today.

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." Romans 8:14-17

"He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will." Ephesians 1:5

122. The Holy Spirit Teaches Us All Things

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH; for He will NOT SPEAK ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY, but whatever HE HEARS HE WILL SPEAK; and He will tell you things to come. He will GLORIFY ME, for He will TAKE of WHAT IS MINE and DECLARE IT TO YOU. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you." John 16:13-15

The primary teacher of the child of God is the Holy Spirit. No believer has a junior Holy Spirit. We have received all fullness from our Lord (*John 1:16*). The child of God must learn to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit and know his voice, as it is he who teaches us all things (*John 14:26*) and guides us into all truth (*John 16:13*). The Holy Spirit will always glorify Jesus (*John 16:14*) and bring to the believers' remembrance all that Jesus has spoken (*John 14:26*). The Holy Spirit never contradicts or goes outside the scriptures. He glorifies Jesus and always draws men to Him. Any spirit that glorifies anything or anyone apart from Jesus is not the Holy Spirit.

How is Jesus glorified? When His sacrifice on the cross, his shed blood, his kingdom, and his righteousness (his commandments) are preached and exulted.

Any gift of teaching must come from the Holy Spirit, for it to be true, as he is the only teacher. And the believer should have the witness in his spirit that what he hears is true if he has the Holy Spirit in him.

Seeking men to teach one when there is no relationship with the Holy Spirit through the word is a recipe for deception and idolatry.

"But you have an anointing (endowment and teaching of the Holy Spirit) from the Holy One, and you know ALL THINGS." 1 John 2:20

"But the anointing (endowment and teaching of the Holy Spirit) which you have received from Him abides in you, and YOU DO NOT NEED THAT ANYONE TEACH YOU; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." 1 John 2:27

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, and BRING TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE ALL THINGS that I said to you." John 14:26

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will TESTIFY OF ME." John 15:26

123. The Lord Jesus Christ Is Not a Sugar Daddy

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

The Lord Jesus Christ is not a sugar daddy or an ATM machine. He did not die to give us material wealth and make our lives comfortable on this earth. He died to save us from our sins and corrupt nature so that he may reconcile us back to God and give us adoption as sons of God. Jesus never preached about having wealth and riches, and neither did the apostles. Anything Jesus or the apostles said about wealth was always negative in terms of warnings. God provides for his children, but that isn't what he wants us to be interested in. Our chief aim is to seek first his kingdom. These other things are additions that should never occupy the child of God who really trusts his father. The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (*Romans 14:17*).

Notice that even in an earthly home, children are rarely staying up late worrying about food, shelter, and clothing. These things they know are always provided, and so they don't concern themselves with them if they have good parents. The child is more focused on their relationship with Mom and Dad. It is slaves who are not members of the family who are constantly worrying about wages, incomes, and payments. Let us not treat the Lord Jesus as if he were a means of worldly gain; it hurts him because he has prepared a glorious kingdom for us. Our chief aim as Christians should be to build our Father's kingdom by preaching the gospel and making disciples and not building earthly kingdoms, which will perish in the end.

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:6-10

"Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” Luke 12:13-15

124. Sin, the Image of Satan

"Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous. The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start. This is why the Son of God was revealed, to destroy the works of the devil. Anyone born of God refuses to practice sin, because God's seed abides in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God." 1 John 3:7-9

Sin is grievous to God. Satan was the first sinner, and he taught Adam and Eve how to sin and rebel against their Father God. Every time we sin, we are choosing Satan over God. It is that serious. As born-again believers, our nature has been changed. God has given birth to us through the blood of Jesus. He has placed his seed in us.

When we choose to sin, we do the work of Satan. God has given us a new nature, which is like his nature. We must not become familiar with sin. If we sin, we must repent immediately and continue to abide in Christ and His Word, allowing it to sanctify us and transform us into His image from glory to glory by His Spirit. This is the work the Lord does in his children, whom he has given birth to through the gospel.

We are no longer slaves to sin. If we go back to living in sin, we are forfeiting the grace we have been given and choosing Satan over God, and we begin to look like him, and he becomes our father. If we start to look like the devil, God can never accept us. He is a jealous God.

"For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." Galatians 2:18

125. Danger of Drawing Back

"If we DELIBERATELY (willfully) KEEP ON sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, NO sacrifice for sins is LEFT, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has TRAMPLED the Son of God UNDERFOOT, who has TREATED as an UNHOLY thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has INSULTED the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:26-32

We must never take God's kindness for weakness. Yes, he loves us, but he is God and MUST be feared, for he is a jealous and holy God. Whoever treats the blood of Jesus with contempt by continuing willfully in sin while claiming to be saved will not go guiltless. The fires of hell are the fires of his fury and jealousy. Our God is a consuming fire.

If we appreciate what Jesus did and went through on the cross for our sins, we will strive to please him. It's just basic respect.

126. Both False Teachers and Their Followers Shall Share the Same Fate

"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him SHARES IN HIS EVIL DEEDS." 2 John 1:9-11

Both false teachers are those who hearken to them shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. It is not enough for us to recognize false teachers. We MUST NOT listen to them or have fellowship with them. And in these days of social media, where people listen to and watch anything, this command still stands. Do not entertain false teachers. The Lord considers this betrayal. We cannot lend our ears and attention to his enemies and claim to know him. Therefore, those who fellowship with false teachers and attend their 'churches' shall share their fate in the lake of fire. God demands absolute loyalty; thus, take heed of your doctrine and who you give attention to. What fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? What agreement does the temple of God have with idols? And you are that temple. The true Christian does not fellowship with enemies of the cross of Christ. Our God is a jealous God.

Warning from Ignatius of Antioch, Early Church father and martyr, and direct disciple of the apostle John: "Do not err, my brethren. Those that corrupt families shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If, then, those who do this as respects the flesh have suffered death, how much more shall this be the case with any one who corrupts by wicked doctrine the faith of God, for which Jesus Christ was crucified! Such an one becoming defiled [in this way], shall go away into everlasting fire, and so shall every one that hearkens unto him."

127. Without Holiness, No Man Shall See the Lord

"But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written, 'Be holy, because I am holy.' 1 Peter 1:15-16

As professing Christians, we cannot just live in disobedience to God and his Word, live in sin, and enter heaven. It does not work that way. God hates sin; he cannot allow sin into heaven, as it would cease to be heaven. If Satan was cast out of heaven for his sin, what makes us think we can sin, disobey God, live how we please, treat him with contempt, do the works of the devil, and then stroll into heaven because we say we are born again? If people can just sin and enter heaven, then even Satan will demand to enter: such a thing can never be! The true Christian lives a life of self-examination and repentance and does not abide with sin. We are slaves to righteousness, not sin.

If we deny the Lord by our lifestyles on earth, he will also deny us on the final day. If human beings hate adultery, how much more does God? Jesus paid a high price for our sins. He is coming back for a pure bride, not an adulterous one.

May the Lord help us not to be deceived. Without holiness, NO MAN shall see God (*Hebrews 12:14*). Sin has no place in heaven. If it did, God would not be holy, and Christ died in vain. We must work out our salvation with fear and trembling and take heed lest we fall. There is no such thing as eternal security when we are living in rebellion against God. God is holy, and he desires holiness from his children. Let us fear him as much as he loves us. God's love can never contradict his holiness.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

128. God's Mercy in Discipline and Judgment

"My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD, and do not loathe His rebuke; / for the LORD disciplines the one He loves, as does a father the son in whom he delights." Proverbs 3:11-12

God's discipline and even judgment are a form of mercy. The human heart is evil. For many of us, unless we face the judgment, discipline, and affliction of God, we will not humble ourselves or slow down enough to reflect on our lives and the existence and reality of God and the coming judgment. Many of us turned to God because we faced either the grave consequences of sin or the discipline and judgment of God for our sins. And even in this, this is the MERCY of God in operation.

God is so merciful that he will even allow affliction, so we turn to him. God is willing to do anything to get our attention. And in many cases, it has worked. Many have turned to God when they reached the end of themselves. If God were not long-suffering or merciful, we would all have perished long ago because we offend him so much. It sometimes takes judgment to humble us. The Bible is filled with such examples, not only for individuals but also for nations.

God disciplines us for our good so that we may share in his holiness. If we cooperate with his discipline and do not resist it, he perfects us through it. God's discipline is not pleasant. But afterwards it produces the peaceable fruit of holiness to those who are trained by it. In God's great sovereignty, all our suffering and even the consequences of sin have in them the ability to draw us to him. But we have to respond in humility, otherwise, all we have is worldly sorrow, which produces death.

Many of us would say with David, *"It was good for me to be afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes." Psalm 119:70*

"Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:19-11

129. No One Can Snatch Us Out of His Hand

"But because you are not My sheep, you refuse to believe. My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and the Father are one." John 10:26-30

The Lord's sheep who follow him shall not be lost, but he shall shepherd them all the way home and raise them up on the last day. As David took care of his sheep and protected them from the lion and bear and did not lose one, much more the Lord Jesus shall shepherd his sheep and keep them from the evil one and lose none but present them to the Father at the last day. This is the father's will for him, and he shall do it. No one shall pluck them from his hand. He shall fight every lion and bear to protect and safeguard his sheep.

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but to do the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of those He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. For it is My Father's will that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:38-40

"I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them in as well, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd." John 10:16

"For You granted Him authority over all people, so that He may give eternal life to all those You have given Him." John 17:2

"I have revealed Your name to those You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word." John 17:6

"David replied, "Your servant has been tending his father's sheep, and whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, I went after it, struck it down, and delivered the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." 1 Samuel 17:34-36

130. You Are God's Workmanship Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

God has not created you to just occupy space and while time away, but to glorify him. He has created each one of us for a particular good work in Christ Jesus. This purpose can only be discovered in Christ, and God expects us to fulfill it because it is for his glory. Each one of us has been given gifts and ministries as the Holy Spirit wills to apportion. This is the work and choosing of God, and it is not we who decide what we are called to do. It is not men who decide for us or give us permission to serve God; it is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the builder of the Church, not men. It is therefore very important to have a personal walk with God and hear from him what he has called us in Christ to do. What God has called us to do, he will require an account from us. If we allow men to keep us from serving God, we are fully to blame. God expects us to be good stewards of the gifts he has given us.

"This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise." Isaiah 43:21

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act on behalf of His good purpose." Philippians 2:13

"He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." Titus 2:14

"So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:10

"We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If one's gift is prophecy, let him use it in proportion to his faith; if it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is giving, let him give generously; if it is leading, let him lead with diligence; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Romans 12:6-8

131. Jesus' Bride Is Holy and Blameless

"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. For I promised you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:2

Jesus is not a part-time lover or an appendage; he must be all, or he is nothing. He is a jealous God and shares his glory with no other. Adulterers and adulteresses cannot inherit his kingdom. Jesus is gentle, meek, and loving, but make no mistake, he is also a righteous judge. We must never mistake his kindness for weakness. Those who are ashamed of him and want to commit adultery with the world and the devil while claiming to love Jesus cannot be with him for eternity. Jesus is coming back for a holy bride and not an adulterous one.

A wife who truly loves her husband would never be unfaithful to him. The height of disrespect to any man is a wife who sleeps around with other men while claiming to love him. What more of the Lord Jesus? How much more does he demand fidelity from his bride?

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a glorious church, without stain or wrinkle or any such blemish, but holy and blameless." Ephesians 5:25-27

132. We Are Kept by the Power of God, Not Our Own

“...who (the elect) are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.” 1 Peter 1:5

If your salvation and walk with God depend solely on you and your ability to keep yourself, then at best, all you can do is hope and pray that your works are good enough and that God will allow you into heaven. But salvation is God's work. It is He who began it in you, and He is invested in completing it. Jesus is the author and finisher of your faith. Resting in this truth will give you assurance and confidence in your relationship with God. We do not keep ourselves in salvation. If we did, no one could make it, because we do not have the power to do that. That is self-righteousness. We are kept by the POWER of our Father. And our Father is able to finish what He has begun; we can trust Him. This understanding yields total dependence on God and produces more abiding fruit than self-righteousness.

"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

Dear friend, if you are carrying heavy burdens because you think you have to somehow make it to heaven by your own powers, cast your burdens on Jesus, the great Shepherd who saved you when you were a sinner. If He saved you when you were dead, He can keep you now that you are one of His sheep.

"For if, when we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!" Romans 5:10

133. Holiness Is the Fruit of Abiding in Christ

"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." 1 John 2:28

God expects holiness, and without holiness no man shall see God (*Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 1:15*). However, we don't "achieve" holiness by our own efforts. Christ is our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. He imputes his righteousness to us, and our sanctification happens as we abide in Christ. It's the fruit of abiding in him and his word and loving him, not solely our own human effort.

God's grace not only saves us, it teaches and empowers us to be holy as he is holy. The true child of God will produce the fruit of righteousness in his life. This happens as he continues to grow in the knowledge of God and his will. He desires to please God because his nature has been changed (*Romans 6:22, Colossians 1:10*).

Our sanctification, or holiness, is the work of the Spirit of God. We just get to cooperate with him.

Grace teaches or instructs us to be godly, not ungodly.

Anyone using grace as an excuse to continue to live in sin has received the grace of demons, not of God. God is holy; he cannot produce unholiness in his children.

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone. It INSTRUCTS us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live SENSIBLE (sober), UPRIGHT (righteous), and GODLY lives in the present age, as we await the blessed hope and glorious appearance of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave Himself for us to redeem us from ALL LAWLESSNESS and to PURIFY FOR HIMSELF A PEOPLE for His own possession, zealous for GOOD DEEDS." Titus 2:11-14

134. The Word Was Made Flesh

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:14

Jesus opened the understanding of his disciples to understand the scriptures. This is what he desires to do for us each time we meditate on his word. It is an endless well. One verse can have endless revelations about him each time you read it. His word makes us wise unto salvation (*2 Timothy 3:15*).

The scriptures point to Jesus and reveal him. They are not motivational or man-centered words, but they are Jesus himself. All the scriptures point to him and reveal him. When we make the scriptures about us, they lose the power to transform. Seek to see Jesus in the scriptures, and the word will become flesh and life in you.

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in ALL THE SCRIPTURES the things concerning himself…And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?…And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, CONCERNING ME. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures." Luke 24:27, 44-45"

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39

135. Christianity Is Not a Religion, nor Mere Morality, but a New Birth

"Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:5-8

Biblical Christianity is not a matter of finding religion. It is not stopping to do this, or starting to do this. It is not about morality; anyone can be moral. Christianity is life from death; it is a rebirth and nothing less. Jesus offers what nothing and no one else can accomplish: regeneration and new creation. It is not a theory, but literal. And because the true gospel is hardly preached anymore, most people are robbed of this profound experience and simply pick up religion and church membership, and this is why their lives are not changed. When one is born again, they know! The old nature is dead, and the new creature lives.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:5

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

136. We Shall Be Changed!

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God...And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Romans 8:21, 23

We shall be changed! This is the blessed hope of the believer: the redemption (*resurrection*) of our bodies! The whole creation is waiting for this: to be delivered from its corruption of death. If we are indeed born again, our spirits have been regenerated, and soon our bodies shall be changed, and we shall be as he is!

The true Christian has a glorious present and a glorious future. We have been united with him, one spirit with him. The believer who only lives for this world, who is enslaved by the sins and the lusts of this world, and has not comprehended that his inheritance is most unfortunate!

We must grow up into HIM in all things! A son who is living like a slave is most unfortunate since he hasn't realized who he is and the treasure he has.

"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." Philippians 3:10-11

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13

"May grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Ephesians 4:15

137. Jesus Is a Shepherd to Sheep, Not Goats

"All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left." Matthew 25:32-33

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS and not on man, and he will lead you safely to heaven. He ALONE is the way, the truth, and the life. His sheep hear his voice, and they OBEY him, and he will shepherd them safely to the end. No one can pluck his sheep from his hands. But GOATS do not belong to him; they may hide among the sheep and pretend to be part of his, but he does not know them, and the day shall reveal it.

Jesus is a shepherd to sheep because they are obedient and not rebellious goats.

138. Heaven Is for Those Who Love and Obey Jesus

"But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Revelation 21:27

How can a man think he will spend eternity with God in heaven when he has spent his entire life ignoring and denying Jesus on earth? Such a thing can never be. Heaven is for God's children, those that loved and obeyed his son Jesus, the savior. Man will spend eternity with what he loved on earth: God or Satan (for Satan is the father of all lovers of sin). Entry into heaven cost Jesus his life on the cross. No one will expect to bypass Jesus and enter heaven. He is the ONLY WAY to God. All who reject him sadly choose eternal separation from God in the lake of fire for eternity, the same fate as Satan. God is just. His haters shall not spend eternity with him.

"The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 3:35-36

139. The Heavenly Vision

"By faith Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible." Hebrews 11:27

Before you speak

Before you act

Before you send that message

Before you meet that person

Before you have that conversation

Before you get into that relationship

Before you make that friendship

Before you go to that place

Ask yourself if Jesus would be pleased. Does it take you closer to heaven or take you out of the narrow path?

Many things may not be necessarily sinful, but they could be the beginning of making your heart grow cold towards the Lord Jesus.

Good is the enemy of best.

Live as a man with a mission. Know what you're living for and travelling to.

Heaven is not far away. Hell is not far away. They are both a twinkling of the eye away.

Every person in heaven or hell had that final moment, which they likely did not know was their final moment but an ordinary day; it was their last.

Oh Lord, may we not be careless and aimless travelers! Give us the heavenly vision.

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." 1 Corinthians 9:24

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

140. Salvation Is Free; Heaven Is Conditional on Obedience

"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." Revelation 3:5

Salvation is free and open to all, but entering heaven is conditional on obedience.

Any sinner who repents and turns to Jesus will be accepted by Grace through faith; salvation is free to all. But entering heaven is for those who continue in the faith in holiness, HOLY after salvation. Faith alone is not enough for heaven; that faith must be accompanied by WORKS of righteousness. James said, "*Faith without works is dead" (James 2:17*). The Lord Jesus said, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father, which is in heaven*" (*Matthew 7:21*).

To do God's will is to obey him. It is not enough to confess Jesus with the mouth; we must prove it with our lives and deeds. Jesus said, "*If you love me, KEEP my commandments" (John 14:15)*. The idea that once saved means we can never lose our salvation and will enter heaven no matter how we live is a lie from the pits of hell. All through the New Testament, the conditionality of entering heaven is taught by both Jesus and his apostles. Jesus talked about *enduring to the end to be saved*. Paul, Peter, and John constantly warned of the possibility of losing our salvation if we do not watch, exercise godly discipline, and live holy lives.

Jesus said we must *strive to enter* heaven (*Luke 13:24)* and pray to be accounted worthy (*Luke 21:36)*. Heaven is not a guarantee. It is a purposeful decision we have to make every day to please God; otherwise, the Lord himself said some names will be blotted out of the book of life (*Revelation 3:5)*. Take heed that no man deceives you with false doctrines that keep you comfortable in sin hiding behind God's grace. God's grace is available to help us live holy, not to justify and excuse sin. Remember, it is God's word that shall judge us after death (*John 12:48)*, and God's word can never be abolished or changed by human beings; it is established forever.

"There is a judge for the one who rejects Me and does not receive My words: The word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day." John 12:48

141. The Race of Faith and the Ultimate Goal

"Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2

There is an ultimate goal and prize for the follower of Jesus: HEAVEN. With that heavenly vision ever before him, the believer will be careful not to entangle himself in anything that may cost him that great prize even if it seems afar off. Even the longest marathon ends, and so the long-distance runner never gets distracted; he keeps running so that he may win his prize and finish his race.

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

Many let go of the heavenly vision because they get distracted by sin and the cares of this world or because they think they have time. But sadly, this attitude cannot win the heavenly prize any more than it can win a physical marathon. As born-again believers, we are in a race, whether we like it or not, and not everyone will win the prize because not everyone will finish or finish well. Some will be disqualified for not running according to the rules.

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." 1 Corinthians 9:24

"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:12-14

"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules." 2 Timothy 2:4-5

142. There Are No Celebrities in God's Kingdom

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

There are no celebrities in God's kingdom. The modern-day celebrity Christianity is not of God. This idea has come about because of the prosperity gospel and its kin (little gods, dominion, and word of faith theologies, etc.). Born-again believers are servants and slaves of Jesus Christ.

We are born again and DIE to this world and our old lives, where we lived for fame, stardom, vain glory, selfish ambition, and recognition.

Jesus Christ, our master, did not live as a celebrity but as a minister and servant. Apostle Paul did not live as a celebrity or 'star.' Be very careful about this new brand of Christianity in our generation; it is from hell and leads to hell. If you are wise, you would stay away from superstar, celebrity, influencer-type Christians and have nothing to do with them.

The fruit of that type of Christianity and culture is not holiness and righteousness or a desire for heaven and escape from the wrath to come; instead, it breeds more worldliness, blasphemy, corruption, and love for this world, which is against the very foundation of true Christianity. True Christianity is that taught by our Lord, the apostles, and the martyrs, not this corrupted satanic version. Only Satan offers stardom and celebrity status to his followers. He offered this to our Lord Jesus, and Jesus rebuked him.

"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28

143. Ye Shall Know Them by Their Fruits

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher." Luke 6:40

Christianity is not just a religion but a Christ-imitating and following life and lifestyle. Christians bear fruit that proves they are Christians. Christians follow their master, who was perfectly just and righteous. If that is not our daily imitation and ambition, then perhaps we are following a religion and a nominal and cultural Christianity and not Jesus Christ the person. Jesus gave the ultimate "sniff" test of a true Christian: "*Ye shall know them by their fruit.*"

Anyone can profess to be anything, but the proof is in the pudding. A good tree cannot produce corrupt fruit. If it does, then it is not a good tree. If a person is producing the works of the devil and of the flesh, they cannot claim to be a Christian. Jesus referred to his disciples as "*lights of the world*" and "*salt of the earth*." True Christianity is a life that resembles Christ Jesus; it is not mere membership to a club or society.

"You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them." Matthew 7:16-20

144. Warnings from the Life of Balaam, a Great Prophet

"Who can count the dust of Jacob or number even a fourth of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous; let my end be like theirs!" Balaam in Numbers 23:10

Balaam wished to die the death of the righteous but was overtaken in that of the apostate. Balaam's life and great prophetic gift is a warning that we can be used to give the true prophetic and inspired words of God but still perish. Balaam even prophesied about the coming messiah, but he perished at the end of it all.

"Balaam saw truly, but he perished miserably…. He wished to die the death of the righteous, but was overtaken in that of the apostate. How near we may come to the gates of salvation, and yet perish miserably without!" F.B. Meyer

145. Do Not Bank on Death Bed Confession

“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." Hebrews 3:15

Most deathbed confessions are not accepted by God because they are not sincere. Those who say they will confess on their deathbed fool themselves because God is not mocked. Using the thief on the cross as an excuse will not work because you are not on the cross. God only accepts sincere repentance.

Premeditated and willful sinning with hopes of repenting in the final moments can't be received by God because it is mockery and deception. God cannot be mocked, played games with, or bribed. He knows who is sincere even at death and who is not, and therefore some confessions and "*salvation prayers*" are not accepted by God in the final moments. He weighs the hearts, and he knows what is deep down. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your heart.

Don't let sleep catch your eyes without turning to God. Tomorrow is not guaranteed.

“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6:2

146. Grace Is Not a License to Sin

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14

Grace teaches us to say NO to ungodliness; it does not make provision for sin.

Many Christians have been erroneously taught or believe that God is no longer judging sin in the New Testament and they can live how they wish and enter heaven. Grace is not a license to sin. God cannot change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He swore by himself, "*For I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6)*. What God hated in the old covenant he still hates. God does not change like humans and hate sin and then accept it again.

Jesus did not come to die to excuse sin and give us license to sin. That is twisting of scripture and abuse of grace. He came to make it POSSIBLE for us to live holy because in the new covenant his SPIRIT now lives inside of us and his blood washes us from sin. In the new covenant, once we truly get born again, we are transformed and renewed and become new creations through the rebirth by the Spirit of holiness.

We are changed into sons of God who can now obey God. We have something better than the old covenant people who depended on the blood of bulls and goats, which could not cleanse their conscience or change their sin nature. We have received a superior covenant with better promises, and now we can be holy and please God by his grace.

Any teachings claiming that now we are free to sin and violate God's commands, including those in the Old Testament, are demonic and false. God's standards are even higher in the new covenant, and we see that in the teachings of Jesus in the gospel. The only thing that was abolished was the sacrificial and ceremonial laws, which pointed to Christ and have been fulfilled since Christ is the final sin offering who died ONCE and was perfect. God's moral laws will never change.

Jesus came to fulfill the law so that now he expects our righteousness to EXCEED that of the Pharisees and scribes and the old covenant.

"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20

147. Cultivate the Habit of Daily Repentance

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Sin, which is NOT confessed and repented of, cannot be forgiven, and if sin is not forgiven, we are under condemnation and cannot enter the kingdom of God. Sin cannot enter heaven. Even if we are born again, we MUST confess all sins we commit (immediately be aware of it). If we keep sinning and refuse to repent or think God will forgive us by osmosis, we come under his condemnation as sinners.

Born-again believers need to make a habit of repenting of sin immediately after sinning and also make a habit every day of asking the Lord Jesus for mercy during prayer for any sins committed knowingly and unknowingly and sins of omission as well. Never presume on the grace of God.

"Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression." Psalm 19:13

This includes asking for forgiveness where you have wronged people and setting things right. If you wrong someone, you cannot confess to God alone; you must make peace with the person you have offended; otherwise, God cannot forgive you.

Never ignore sin because you do not know when your hour to leave this world will come. It is a dangerous thing to have presumption when it comes to God. While we are alive, we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling because salvation can be lost and names can be erased from the book of life (*Revelation 3:5)*.

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." Proverbs 28:13

148. I Call on Heaven and Earth as Witnesses Today

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live." Deuteronomy 30:19

God told the Children of Israel that the land was defiled because of the abominations of the nations and the land spat them out; God also asked the Israelites to observe sabbaths for the land to rest; Jesus told the Pharisees that the rocks would cry out if the children did not; Jesus said that cities would testify against each other; Apostle John saw earth, heaven, islands, and mountains fleeing and hiding before God; Moses called heaven and earth as witnesses against the Israelites.

On judgment day, even inanimate objects, stones, nature, land, sea, the sun, the moon, the seas, stars will be witnesses against humanity. Many sins are done in nature, in the seas, in cars, etc. Animations, sexual sins, witchcraft, and so forth are done in nature and using nature. All these will serve as witnesses on that day. We need to fear God. Everything hears and sees.

Everything shall be called as witness so that no one would accuse God of being unjust. We can sin against nature too, and defile it when we commit sins on it, and so we should treat all of God's creation with respect because it has been created for his glory.

"So if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it spewed out the nations before you." Leviticus 18:28

All creation responds and reacts and has ears and mouths.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. Without speech or language, without a sound to be heard, their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." Psalms 19:1-4

149. Hell Is the Absence and Separation from God Forever

"They will suffer the penalty of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His might." 2 Thessalonians 1:9

The reason why hell is so terrible is that it is devoid of the presence of God. This world, evil as it is, still enjoys God's favor and presence. Jesus said that God allows the sun to rise and rain to fall on both the evil and the good. Wicked people still get to enjoy some of God's blessings on earth.

Any good thing we enjoy here is God: our breath, fresh air, laughter, sleep, joy, peace, health, good smells, plants, night and day, the sun, rain, water, food, family, companionship, friendly animals, and so forth.

But hell is an absolute absence of the presence of God, and so you can imagine how evil and torturous it is: maggots, darkness, no water, no life, no air, no light, no joy, no companionship, suffocation, no sleep, no rest, bad memories, all negative emotions amplified, torture, eternal destruction, maggots, evil creatures, and so forth. Even death will be absent in the lake of fire and shall also be cast into the lake of fire; there will be no escape.

The only thing of God in hell is his consuming fire of wrath because that is the only side of God the inhabitants have chosen. In hell, God does not hear or listen; those who rejected him on earth get to have their wish and be separated from him for all eternity.

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41

150. Righteousness Is a Defense

"We know that anyone born of God does not keep on sinning; the One who was born of God (Jesus Christ) PROTECTS HIM, and the EVIL ONE CANNOT touch him. We know that we are of God, and that the whole world is under the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true—in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:18-21

The only safety for a believer is in living a righteous life, never entertaining sin, and always repenting immediately for any sin you commit. Sin opens the door for the enemy and gives him a legal right over your life. Even God cannot bypass this legality because he has nothing to do with sin. Satan is very quick to run to accuse believers before God with legalities. Righteousness is a DEFENSE. Never underestimate. Just as God told the Israelites when they left Egypt, obedience brings blessings, and disobedience brings curses. God is only able to protect us if we are on his side and his side is righteousness. If we disobey him, our enemies have access to our lives. Believers who toy with sin and make excuses for sin in the name of "grace" and the false doctrine of "once-saved-always-saved" are only deceiving themselves and Satan laughs at their pride, folly, and presumption.

God hates sin, he has nothing to do with it and it cannot be connected to him. If we claim to belong to him but are playing harlots with sin, God has nothing to do with us. Sin is the product of the devil who is the first sinner and author of sin. A sinning Christian is an adulteress before God. If we sin, we must immediately go to God and the people we have offended for forgiveness so that we can be cleansed and ask for grace not to sin again. A genuine believer hates sin because he knows God hates it and cannot stand it.

Walking in righteousness is a defense. Jesus keeps and protects those who don't live in sin, and the wicked one, Satan, cannot touch them because they have nothing of his in them. Sin is the property of Satan, and so is anyone willfully living in sin and never repenting, no matter their profession.

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God…" Deuteronomy 28:1-2

151. Put On the New Man

The Lord's sanctifying work will touch every single area of our lives. No area of our lives will remain unchanged if we surrender to the LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ. He will change our inner being, heart, spirit, soul, speech, conduct, desires, financial management, priorities, treatment of others, dressing, vision, perception of things, how we see others, and so forth. The new man is totally new in every respect and nothing like the old man.

"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23

"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins." Mark 2:22

"And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:24

"And have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him." Colossians 3:10

"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Romans 13:14

152. The Gospel of Righteousness

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17

The gospel that will lead us to heaven is the gospel Jesus and his apostles preached and NOT *another gospel*, a watered-down gospel, a "love" gospel, a cheap grace gospel, a "once saved, always saved" gospel, a 21st-century gospel, or a lukewarm gospel.

The message Jesus and his apostles preached was "*REPENT, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (near)."* It was a gospel of righteousness. If there is no repentance and holiness, we are preaching a false gospel because Jesus came to save his people from their sins and prepare them for the coming kingdom of which Paul said, "*Without HOLINESS, no man shall see God" (Hebrews 12:14)*

Righteousness means obedience. Jesus said, *"If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15),* and *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." (John 8:31)*

153. God's Word is Holy

"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— THE WORD THAT I HAVE SPOKEN WILL JUDGE HIM IN THE LAST DAY." John 12:48

The Bible is never to be read as a spiritual book that is to be debated and reasoned with. It is the very word of God. The Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote it, and so it is infallible and worthy of great reverence. When reading the word of God, we MUST tremble and study it to OBEY every word. God says he has exalted his WORD ABOVE ALL HIS NAME (*Psalm 138:2*). Jesus (God himself) tells us that it is his word that will judge us on the day of judgment.

When reading the New Testament, we must remember Jesus is God, and when he speaks, it is God speaking. Jesus created the world. His words are holy. He sent his apostles to be his witnesses, and so their words are infallible too.

Paul received the gospel he preached directly from Jesus by revelation, and so Paul's words are God's words. So those who like to argue with Paul and say these are Paul's words are on dangerous ground.

"For I certify to you, brothers, that the gospel I preached was not devised by man. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ." Galatians 1:12

The Bible is not up for debate and argument; it is the HOLY word of God, and those words will judge us on the last day. Ours is to obey even when it does not make sense to our carnal and logical minds. We can't argue with God. Jesus is God.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21

154. God's People Are a Holy People

"And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." Romans 6:18

The saints and elect of God are called for be Holy as their Father is Holy. That is our spiritual destiny and heritage. To be like our father and the Lord Jesus Christ our holy messiah and first-born brother.

Jesus shed his blood on the cross to redeem (buy back, rescue, ransom, deliver) us from the power of sin and not to keep us in sin. His sacrifice on the cross was an effectual one. Jesus did the job well once. He took the keys of death and Hell from the devil. He made a show of principalities and powers openly on the cross. With those keys, he delivers those who believe in him and his ransom and translates them to his kingdom of LIGHT, which is holy and righteous. To continue willfully in sin while claiming to be redeemed is to mock the brutal sacrifice of Jesus and treat his blood with contempt.

If we are not free from the power of sin and are still sinning nonchalantly like the world, then we are not redeemed and are still slaves to the devil. The slaves of Satan cannot inherit the kingdom of God. To be born again is to change masters; the redeemed are slaves of righteousness; they hate sin because their nature has been changed.

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he CHOSE US IN HIM before the foundation of the world, that we should BE HOLY and BLAMELESS BEFORE HIM." Ephesians 1:3-4

"To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints (holy; set apart)" Romans 1:7

155. Contend for the Faith of Our Children

"And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: that your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth." Deuteronomy 11:19-21

If we do not CONTEND for the faith in our personal lives, our children will pay for it, and they may pay for it with hellfire. Do not leave the spiritual training of your children to churches because many have become apostates. Please, parents, train your children in God's ways from scripture, have family devotions, and study the scriptures line by line, verse by verse—not devotionals, not Bible study guides, not books written by men, but the holy scripture, which can make them wise for salvation. Let them memorize and read aloud, and teach them how to meditate and pray the scriptures. If you refuse to train your children by laziness and dump them in Sunday school, you will be preparing them to be food for a false preacher who will be waiting for them wide-mouthed on social media, television, and false 'churches' to shipwreck their faith.

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." Jude 3:3

156. "I Will Build My Church"—Jesus

"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

Jesus Christ is the HEAD and builder of his true church. But what is his church? Buildings made with stones, denominations, institutions, or the thousands attending churches every Sunday? NO! The church of Christ is the members of his body, of which he is the HEAD. Not every professing Christian is a member of his body. The body of Christ comprises his disciples, his elect, his saints, and his bride; it is those who obey him and do his will. It is the living stones that have been hewn out of him, the true living and chief cornerstone. These are being built up into a spiritual house, which is the true temple/church of Christ.

The members of Christ's body are scattered all over; they may be found in different denominations and church systems. In some physical churches there will be no member of his true church, in some there will be one member of his body, and in others many. But he knows his own, and he will gather them from every tribe and tongue and religious system. He knows them.

Never console yourself only in being a member of physical churches because that is not a guarantee of being a member of Christ's true church, which is spiritual. It is people who he is building into his true church, and he says the gates of hell shall not prevail against his true body (his elect). Allow Christ to build you into a member of his TRUE church.

"To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood, who has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and power forever and ever! Amen." Revelation 1:6

"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:5

157. Salvation Is of Christ from First to Last

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13

For any man or woman to lift his head in pride and think God needs them, saves them, or uses them because they are so righteous and good is folly. None of us is good without Christ. There is nothing we brought to our salvation except our utter depravity. God did not save us because we're better than others but because of his mercy and goodness. Even the grace to repent comes from him, for none is righteous, not one, and each one turns to his way. We did not choose him or seek him; he chose us and chose to reveal his son IN US. He did it. He drew us to his son.

God saves us because of his goodness alone. He uses us because of his goodness only and not ours. If we think we are something when we are nothing, we deceive ourselves. The self-righteous man is deceived because he actually thinks he can please God by his own efforts. Not even our own holiness is our own, but the work of the Holy Spirit's sanctifying power. We can boast of nothing before God, and no goodness of our own will take us to heaven, but the righteousness of the precious Son of God alone, which he produces in us by his grace.

It is God who works in us both to WILL and TO DO of his good purpose (pleasure). He does the work. Just as he gave Abraham a ram to sacrifice at the Mount.

In the final analysis, God will get ALL the glory for all eternity for the work he has begun and finished in the hearts of wicked sinners. No human being will glory in his presence. Christ begins the work and he finishes it. We only get to participate and cooperate with him.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

158. Desire the Sincere Milk of the Word of God, and Not Man's Theology

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons." 1 Timothy 4:1

The wise should put their eternal salvation in the hands of the word of God rather than in theological manipulations of men. Theology and intellectual twisting of scripture will not lead anyone to heaven; only obedience to the sincere, pure word of God, which, mind you, was not written by or for theologians. The word is written for the simple-minded and the poor in spirit, and it makes them wise for salvation. Those who try to find hidden meanings that are not evident in plain reading place themselves in grave error. Anyone claiming to have a fresh word that does not align with the plain writings of scripture or what was practiced by the early Christians for hundreds of years should not be listened to.

Study God's word for yourself as a child. The first plain meaning is usually the correct one. But when men want to justify their positions and sins, they will usually look for theologians, teachers, and books that twist and wrest the scriptures to find hidden meanings that are not God's. Satan is a master theologian; his expertise is twisting God's word to reveal hidden meanings, which Paul called doctrines of demons. He gave Eve a hidden meaning to God's plain words, which led to the fall of the entire human race. He has not changed his tactics. The Holy Spirit is the only faithful teacher of the scriptures because he inspired them, and he wrote them for babes.

"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." 2 Peter 3:16

"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction." 2 Peter 2:1

159. Allow the Lord to Judge and Examine You

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? 2 Corinthians 13:5

It is good to ask the Lord always to reveal where we may be falling short and constantly ask for his mercy because we may not always rightly see ourselves. The heart is very deceptive. Paul said, "*But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord." 1 Corinthians 4:3-4*

He did not even judge himself because he understood that his judgment could fall short but allowed the Lord to judge him. It is always good to ask the Lord to judge us. The word judge used here in 1 Corinthians 4:4 above is the Greek word *'anakrinó*,' which means to examine, to investigate, to question, or to judge. It's good to ask the Lord to examine and cleanse us daily. David prayed thus: "*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24*

"But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore, judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

160. Save Yourself from This Corrupt Generation

"Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Acts 2:40

In the days of Noah, mankind thought they could be God and run society like they wanted, but they soon learned that God is still God and reigns supreme when he obliterated the whole world by the flood and saved only 8 people (Noah and his family).

In the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, humans thought they could be God and run a society with homosexuality, perversion, and no gender roles, but they soon learned that God is still God and reigns supreme when he destroyed them all with fire and saved only 4 people (Lot and his 3 daughters).

Our modern generation thinks it is God and is following the days of Noah and the days of Lot, but they too will learn that God is still God and reigns supreme because he has promised in his word to eventually destroy this entire world by fire and save only his few righteous and obedient ones.

There is nothing new under the sun. This generation thinks it is intelligent and wise, but it is simply repeating what has been in past societies and will face the same judgment. God may be slow to act, but he eventually acts with finality!

"If He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among the eight; if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction, reducing them to ashes as an example of what is coming on the ungodly; and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— if all this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment." 2 Peter 2:5-9

"But they deliberately overlook the fact that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world of that time perished in the flood. And by that same word, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:5-7

"In the ark a few people, only eight souls, were saved through water." 1 Peter 3:20

161. The Imminence of Christ's Return

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:11-13

The early church lived as if Christ's return would happen in their generation. In the writings of the apostles, we see that as a recurring theme; in fact, they expected it. Faithful Christians in each generation have lived the same way. Christ's return is always imminent, and his kingdom is always at hand. The same applies to us 2025 years later. We must preach and live in expectation of the Lord's return as if it were happening now. I remember the dream where the Lord told me he is coming NOW! He may not return in our generation, but we must always live as if he is, because that's the only way the bride prepares for his return when she knows her bridegroom is coming any second to pick her up, and she must be well adorned and dressed. A bride who has stopped expecting her bridegroom will find herself leaving this world as a foolish virgin even if the Lord does not return. The imminence of the Lord's return should be our blessed hope until we leave this world. That's what proves we are his bride.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:8

162. Fight the Good Fight of Faith

"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses."1 Timothy 6:12

Lazy Christianity is unlikely to get one to heaven. Satan does not sleep, nor is he lazy. He is a hard-working adversary with a large army whose chief aim is to ensure no one gets to heaven. The Christian may think Satan is not bothered with him, but that is Satan's chief mission: to make him think that. An enemy you cannot see, an enemy whose weapons you do not know, an enemy who convinces you that he is not real or is no threat to you, has already overcome you. No soldier can overcome his enemy while he sleeps and is not alert and training. Lazy Christianity is sure to lead to hell because the Christian will be overcome by sin, temptation, Satan's workers, demons, and his own flesh. Heaven is for overcomers!

Samson relaxed and slept; he let down his defenses, and Delilah managed to seduce and destroy him. She never gave up. "And she said, *"The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him." Judges 16:20*

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matthew 11:12

"No one serving as a soldier entangles himself in the affairs of this life, that he might please the one having enlisted him." 2 Timothy 2:4

163. God has Magnified His Word Above His Name

"For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." Psalm 138:2

Anytime passages in the Bible are hard to understand or accept, the solution is not to ignore them, discount them, or water them down. The solution is to ask God for revelation and grace to understand his heart on the subject matter and obey. God will never compromise on his word for our sake. It does not matter if the entire Christian world ignores certain commands of scripture: his word will still stand, and we will be judged by it. Jesus said not one jot or iota will pass from the Law till all be fulfilled. His word will judge us on judgment day, and we should treat it with absolute reverence and respect even when our flesh doesn't like it. But if we love the Lord, we will love his law; it will always be a delight. His commands are not burdensome. They are life and peace to those trained by them.

"He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly." Proverbs 2:7

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away." Matthew 24:35

164. God's Promises Are Conditional on Obedience

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God…" Deuteronomy 28:1-2

We cannot claim God's blessings while living in sin and disobedience. The promises he gave the Israelites as well were conditional; obedience brought blessings, and disobedience brought curses (*Deuteronomy 28-29)*. Whenever they disobeyed him, God gave them over to their enemies to oppress them until they repented. The same applies to new covenant believers. When we sin, we break the hedge, and the serpent has legal access to steal, kill, and destroy us. Our only protection and safety is to abide within the confines of our covenant with God, which is obedience (and repentance if we do sin). When we obey God, we are under his blessing. When we disobey him, we are open to curses (harm) for we have removed ourselves from under his protection.

"Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight." Proverbs 26:2

"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you." Deuteronomy 28:15

165. We Have a Better Country Awaiting Us

"If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them." Hebrews 11:15-16

Beloved, it is human nature to become dull of hearing when we hear something over and over again, but we must always remember that Jesus promised to return, and he will, and he shall come as a thief in the night when we least expect him. Let us not grow faint or familiar with this world. Let us live as those who have their luggage packed and ready to go. Travel light. Leave this world to those who want it. We as believers are not of this world. We are pilgrims and sojourners here just as the children of Israel were in Egypt.

When the children of Israel left Egypt, they were excited to enter the promised land, but when they faced challenges in the wilderness, the majority gave up and forgot God's promise and inheritance laid up for them, and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. They were unable to hold on to the vision of the promised land; they stopped seeing it; it became a dream. God was not pleased with that generation and their lack of faith, and they perished in the wilderness. Their journey is symbolic of ours. Many even now will set off for the promised land, but not all will enter in for the same reasons.

May the Lord Jesus help us all to finish strong in his mighty name. He is able to keep us from falling if we cling to him and abide in him.

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus, I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

"Because they did not follow Me wholeheartedly, not one of the men twenty years of age or older who came out of Egypt will see the land that I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun—because they did follow the LORD wholeheartedly." Numbers 32:11-12

166. In Him We Live and Move and Have Our Being

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:28

In Christ, we have God the Father living and moving and having His being in us. Jesus said, *"On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you" (John 14:20)*. If you understand this and let it settle in your spirit, you shall fear no evil, you shall fear no man, and you shall not allow anyone to bring you into bondage or intimidate you by vain philosophies and principles of men and vain religion. Christ is all in all; he is the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and he dwells within each of his children and not some few anointed ones. Christ is our all in all; only he deserves our adoration. May we give it to no man or ourselves! Increase, O Lord, and let us decrease.

"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:3

167. Danger of Familiarity with God

"Therefore, since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us be filled with gratitude and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. "For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28-29

We must never develop familiarity or presumption with God; it is a grave danger to do so. He is still God, and we are but clay. He is God, and we are not. He deserves our reverence, fear, and obedience, for he is a consuming fire and does not show favoritism to any man. Though merciful, he is holy; though loving, he is a judge; though gracious, he is terrible. Fear him.

"Tremble before Him, all the earth." 1 Chronicles 16:30

168. God Is Love but Also Holy

"And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." Exodus 34:6-7

We so rarely hear about the terror and the fear of God anymore. The vast majority of Christians talk only about a God of love—a God who takes them just as they are and is not moved by their sins. This is not the God of the Bible. God is a two-edged sword with two distinct sides. He is LOVE, but he is also HOLY. God's love means that he is merciful to pardon those who come sincerely to him. But his holiness means he must and will judge all sin because he cannot abide by sin. We must FEAR God. He is not a man and is no respecter of persons. He is God, a great and terrible God, the Bible says. If we love him, we will obey him. If we claim to love him but disobey him, we are hypocrites and will face his wrath.

"If you love me, keep my commandments." *John 14:15*

169. No Unclean Thing Shall Enter Heaven

“But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who practices an abomination or a lie, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” Revelation 21:27

No normal person would allow a bunch of murderers, liars, thieves, adulterers, drunkards, immoral, unpredictable, hateful, mean, perverse, filthy, crude, and hypocritical people to come and live permanently in his home and corrupt his home, wife, and children. And yet many think they can live in sin and pretense, reject God, and still get to enter heaven when they die. Self-deception. If we have standards, how much higher are Gods? He says no unclean thing will ever enter his kingdom. We have to be born again and live holy to enter. He will never change his standards for any of us.

It is we who must rise to God's standards; he will never come down to ours. Jesus paid the high price of his life for us to be righteous. Where we end up for eternity is all up to us. God is not mocked.

"It is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:16

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Galatians 6:7

170. The Name Above All Names

"That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:10-11

At the mention of the name of JESUS CHRIST, every knee bows, every demon scatters, chains are broken, yokes are broken, burdens are lifted, the power of sin is broken, captives are set free, his armies vanquish his foes, darkness flees, Satan trembles, prison doors are open, fetters are broken, mountains melt like wax, witches and wizards scatter, the traps of the wicked are destroyed, wicked tongues are condemned and silenced, justice is wrought, the weapons of darkness are nullified, crooked ways are made straight, highways are made in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. At the mention of the name of Jesus, all things are possible. Call upon his name today! His name is a strong tower!

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe." Proverbs 18:10

171. Heaven is for Overcomers, not Cowards

"You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." Revelation 3:4-5

Heaven is a place for overcomers, valiant soldiers, and brave souls who dared despise this world and choose God almighty with all their hearts, souls, and minds. Jesus boldly declared that the cowardly would have their part in the lake of fire (*Revelation 21:8)*. Those who are timid about belonging to Jesus, timid about denying sin and this world cannot enter heaven. Jesus said that we must hate our lives in this world to inherit eternal life (*John 12:25)*

Jesus said those who deny him before men by their lives, words, and actions, shall likewise be denied by him before the Father in heaven. It is not enough to say we are Christians by name only. We must prove it. It is not easy to follow Christ truly, it costs us everything. Jesus said those who follow him must DENY themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow him. Some seem to think they can have Jesus on their lips only as a religion and waltz into heaven. It does not work that way.

In the book of *Revelation chapters 1-3*, Jesus promised a great reward to all the overcomers in the churches! Just as he overcame this world on the cross, his true disciples likewise must follow his example and lose their lives in this world to gain eternal life. This world is not our home.

Heaven is for those who OVERCOME this world and all it contains (sin, the devil, and corruption). Jesus said*, "The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, but the VIOLENT take it by force (*Matthew 11:12)*."* Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. It is a country for citizens, not strangers to God.

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3:3

"But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 10:33

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24

172. Watch and Pray

"Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:40-41

When a church or an individual stops praying, the enemy walks in and sets up camp. What follows is defeat and backsliding. A prayerless church is a powerless, cold church. A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian. We cannot defeat Satan with empty professions of faith, only with fervent prayer. The word of God alone without prayer is a dead letter. Even Satan uses the word of God for his purposes. The Bible without prayer has no power. It is prayer that quickens God's word and sends it forth to work. Without prayer, the Christian cuts himself off from God's power and is on his own—easy prey for Satan.

Not all prayers are equal. A Christian who only prays for a few lifeless minutes is no match for the devil. Jesus spent hours in prayer; he groaned in prayer until his sweat was like large drops of blood. He asked his disciples, *"Could you not watch with me an hour?"* James the apostle tells us that the *"EFFECTUAL, FERVENT prayer of a RIGHTEOUS man avails much."* Fervent prayer is hot, passionate prayer; it is a prayer that has intent and focus. Lifeless, cold prayers do not affect Satan one bit. A man who prays with serious intent, knowing why and who he is praying to, will send armies to flight. We cannot defeat the enemy with wimpy, weak, distracted prayers. Christians are weighed down by sin and defeat because they do not pray.

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16

173. Work Out Your Own Salvation with Fear and Trembling

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12

We shall all give an account of ourselves to God. No one will say, "*My pastor said, my mother said, or my church taught*." We must each contend for our own salvation by seeking the Lord, meditating on his word, purposing to obey him, and listening to the Holy Spirit. The way is narrow. Jesus said that in the last days, even the elect will be deceived, if possible. No one is immune from Satan's attacks and deceptions. We must abide in the vine, who is the Lord Jesus, and cling to him above all. Fix our eyes on him, the author and finisher of our faith, the only one who can grant us safe passage into heaven.

"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." Matthew 24:24

The Christian faith is about how and if we finish, not how we started. Many will finish badly, many will rise after stumbling and finish strong, many will enter at the last second, and many will deceive themselves and discover they were never in the race at all. It is our finish that matters. Don't compare yourself with anyone. Right now, you can decide to gird up your loins, get serious, and finish strong, whether you're a pastor, a backslider, a churchgoer, or a sinner. In fact, the most dangerous group is those in church doing activities because they think church membership is a ticket to heaven. We must always remember that God knows our thoughts and the hidden things. He can't be bribed or deceived. Work out YOUR OWN salvation with fear and trembling, especially when you're busy with service.

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2

174. We Do Not Wage War Against Flesh

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12

Just as God acts through human agents, so does the devil. When Satan wants to get you to sin, he will use people to bait you and trigger you. Most will be used without knowing it. And so, when someone tries to offend you, annoy you, hurt you, and so forth, watch your reactions because the devil is out to get you into the flesh so that you sin against God. We do not wage war against humans but against the demons, principalities, and powers behind them. Our weapons are not carnal but spiritual. We fight back, not by getting angry, offended, gossiping, criticizing, bitter, malicious, etc., which is what Satan wants. We fight back through love, mercy, forgiveness, blessing, and prayer.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds." 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

175. Living With Heaven in View

"Those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of our hope of salvation." 1 Thessalonians 5:7-8

A Christian who does not have heaven as a real and vivid goal, and as his/her sole ambition in this life that governs all else, will soon find themselves compromising, lukewarm, worldly, and having made a shipwreck of their faith. It is very easy to wander onto the broad way, especially in these last days. The true Christian must be vigilant, sober, and watchful, fleeing sin and compromise as a hot flame.

The Christian who hopes to be loved and accepted by the world is not following the way of the master. If he was hated, though perfect, how much more we? This world is not our home. We must never think we will belong if we are truly heaven-bound.

The road to heaven is narrow, and few find it. The multitudes are not headed there. It is, therefore, folly to console oneself in being part of the majority. Heaven's citizens are not liked by the world because they are not of the world. They are always in the small minority. As Jesus said, "*If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you* (John 15:19)."

176. Once Saved is not Always Saved

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." Matthew 7:21

One of the most dangerous doctrines is that of *"once saved always saved".*

Jesus prophesied that in the last days, there would be a great falling away of those who had once been in the faith. He told us that only those who ENDURE TO THE END will be saved. It is not enough to believe once; we have to believe till the end. Our faith is sure only if it stands to the end (either death or the coming of the Lord). Many will turn away from the Lord who bought them with his blood, to Satan. It is sad, but Jesus prophesied it saying that many false prophets would arise and deceive many.

We see it now as many churches preach a false gospel and false doctrines that are just about loving the world and the things of the world without any repentance and denying the Lordship of Jesus Christ and his death for our sins. They teach things that oppose God's holy nature and slap him in the face.

Apostle Paul told us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling and to make our calling and election sure.

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:22-23

"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved." Matthew 24:11-13

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12

"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:10-11

177. Only a Few Shall Go to Heaven

"Enter by the NARROW gate; for WIDE is the gate and BROAD is the way that leads to destruction, and there are MANY who go in by it. Because NARROW is the GATE and DIFFICULT is the way which leads to life, and there are FEW who find it." Jesus in Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus told us in his teachings in the sermon on the mount that FEW would make it to heaven. And this is because the way is difficult and the gate is narrow that goes to heaven and few find it. But the way is broad and the gate wide that leads to hell and many follow it.

"*For many are called*, *but few are chosen*" *Jesus, Matthew 22:14*

It is a very sobering reality made clear in the word of God. Only a remnant shall be saved (*Romans 9:32*). A remnant is a small group out of a large population. It means that of all the billions and billions of souls that have ever lived since the time of our first parents Adam and Eve, only few shall be saved and have eternal life. The majority shall have eternal damnation because they have rejected God and his beloved son Jesus Christ.

It is not a pleasant thing to think about but sadly because mankind rebels against God and wants to follow their own lusts and sins and be their own gods, many shall persist. Many we see every day shall not make it by their own WILLFUL choice.

God does not send anyone to hell. On the contrary, men willfully choose it by rejecting the salvation offered freely by grace by his kindness. They choose instead to follow the wide road that's populated to their destruction. They comfort themselves because many walk with them and they think that they are safe. They think that they can deceive God and create their own way to salvation but they only fool themselves. They know not that the wide road they walk on as they make merry and pride in themselves is leading straight into eternal fire and damnation. These walk in the way of Satan who is the author of rebellion. The bible calls them the sons of the devil (*Colossians 3:6, Ephesians 2:2, John 8:44*). The devil and his children will end up in hell.

My friends today if you hear God's voice (and he speaks to all men), do not harden your hearts, mock him or postpone. As you read this, God is speaking to you. Death and destruction come upon a man suddenly when he knows not. Jesus is still calling if you have breath. Therefore, repent and believe in his name for he is the only acceptable offering for our sins. No man can save himself. God has offered the way. To receive Jesus is to receive the father. To reject his salvation is to reject the Father and his heaven forever.

The way to heaven is difficult because it requires a man to forsake himself and his sins and follow Christ receive his life. It is a way of death to self that we may find life in Jesus Christ. And the majority do not find this appealing because they still want to keep their lives and do

what they wish. But they know not the end which awaits those who try to save their own lives. Believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved.

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Jesus, Matthew 16:24

About the Author

Mwendwa Mbaabu is a disciple and servant of Jesus Christ, a teacher, and an author. She is the founder of Awaken the Bride of Christ Ministry and Hand of Hope Outreach.

Through her writings, Bible-based teachings, and outreach work, Mwendwa proclaims the saving gospel of Jesus Christ and helps people grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and find freedom from bondage and deception.

Formerly a backslider turned new-age author, coach, and teacher, Jesus Christ radically delivered and saved her at the age of 41 from a life of demonic bondage, deception, and eternal misery.

Jesus has delivered her from a deeply broken and sinful past littered with severe childhood trauma, years of clinical depression and suicidal ideations, alcoholism, LGBTQ and sexual bondage, spiritual abuse, church hurt, backsliding, self-destructive habits, demonization, and years of New Age spiritual deception, and given her new life in him.

Her mission is to use her past experiences and the complete freedom she has found in Christ to help others find freedom too. If he could do it for her, he can do it for anyone.

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